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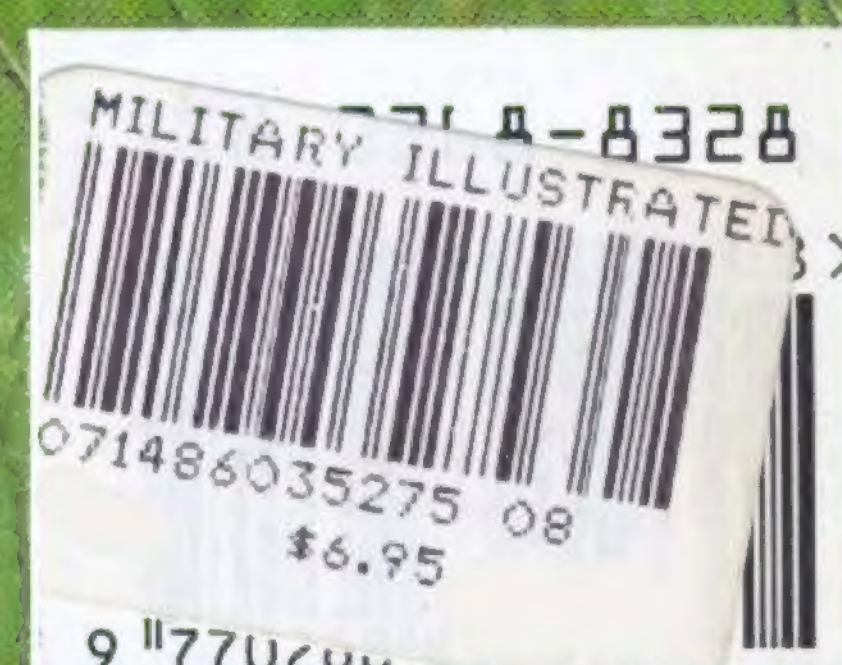
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Britain's Final Defence

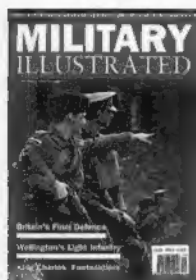
Wellington's Light Infantry

King Charles' Footsoldiers



Military Illustrated

Past & Present



Recreated corporal and sergeant of British Home Guard during World War Two.
(John Norris)

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Readers' Letters

MI readers are invited to write to the Editor. Letters should be addressed to: Tim Newark, Military Illustrated, 43 Museum Street, London WC1A 1LY

Half-Tracks

As a regular reader of MI and a half-track owner I thought I would take up the invitation in the readers' letter section and hopefully provide some constructive criticism on the article entitled 'Work-Horse of the US Army'. On the whole I felt the article was informative and well written. The only concern I had was the author referring to the M3 Half-Track series rather than the White, Autocar and Diamond T series of Half-Tracks of which the M3 was an individual APC variant in its own right. This was misleading enough, but when I came to the photos (of which the quality was excellent) I found that they bore little relation to the text and even less relation to their captions. I will therefore run through the five photos in order to shed a little light on the subject.

1. Captioned 'Three-quarter view of M-3 half-track, seen here with a quadruple-mounting for .50 inch calibre heavy machine guns for anti-aircraft role'. The vehicle picture is an International Harvester Corporation built half-track probably originally supplied to Britain as an M14 (twin gun turret) and accurately portrayed in M17 configuration (M45 quad gun turret). IHC never built M3s, their model was M5. The White built version of the pictured M17 was designated M16. The majority of IHCs were built for lend-lease to the UK France, and the USSR and rightly not covered in the article; maybe just a mention would have sufficed.

2. Accurate caption to photo of M45 quad mount used in IHC M17's and White M16's.

3. Photo three is the closest we get to an M3 as although within the photo the French sign indicates 'type M16' this vehicle carries what is left of the wind deflector (in photo, top left of windshield) at the base of what was an M49 single .50 machine gun pulpit as used on the M3A1. This would indicate that this

vehicle was one of a number of M3s, M3A1s and M16s converted to M16A1 anti-aircraft configuration by the Americas after the war for supply to France under the various re-armament plants, and hence an M45 quad mount in the rear and the French sign.

4 and 5. This is not an M2. The M2 was a prime mover mostly for artillery and not an APC. It was also built without a rear access door. The M4 81mm mortar carrier referred to in the article was based on the M2 configuration and did have a rear door. However the vehicle pictured is neither M2 or M4 but once again an M16A1. This particular model is a conversion from M16 to M16A1 (the M16 was originally manufactured without a rear door). Also the M45 quad mount has been removed.

As you can see half-tracks aren't just half-tracks. There are many different models each with their own 'M' number and as the French used many of the half-tracks supplied to them after the war (all wartime production) as memorials the likelihood of General Leclerc entering Paris in this particular vehicle are extremely unlikely to say the least.

Andrew King, Dover

Two Giants Clash

In the article on Japanese soldiers in Tsingtao in 1914 in the June issue of MI, the following lines were missing: '...allowed very little action, were subsequently awarded 'Tsingtao' as a battle honour; Captain Meyer-Weldeck received the Iron Cross.

The Illustrations

Somewhere amongst the German

August Military Diary

2-4	RAF Woodvale military festival, Woodvale, Southport. Appropriate uniform may be worn if entering vehicle in show.	0151677 2423	
3-4	Knights of the Conqueror at Richmond Castle, North Yorkshire. In Richmond Town centre.	01748 822493	24-26
4	Military vehicle show at Duxford Airfield, Cambs. Part of the Imperial War Museum collection.	01223 835000	24-26
9-11	American Civil War Society at Saltburn-on-Sea, Cleveland. Camping from Friday. Campsites on Hobb Hill. March on Saturday. Battle Sunday. Registration fee £2.00. Directions will be printed in the next newsletter.	0151 648 3206	
10-11	The Siege of Goodrich Castle 1646 by the English Civil War Society. Goodrich Castle, Hereford and Worcester. Major 350 anniversary event.	01600 890538	25-26
8-11	Military Vehicle Preservation Association (USA) annual convention at Portland, Oregon. Telephone number is for Chris Davies in the UK	01705 241911	25-26
10-11	Victorian Weekend at Fort Nelson, Fareham, Hants. The Portsdown Artillery Volunteers and The Diehard Company show what Victorian soldiery was like.	01329 233734	25-26
14-16	Civil War Living History 1646, by the Sealed Knot at Pendennis Castle, Cornwall.	01326 316594	25-26
17-18	Photo Military Vehicle Show at Lepe Country Park, Beaulieu, New Forest, Hants. Entrants to vehicle parade may wear appropriate uniform.	01705 250463	25-26
17-18	Siege of Pendennis Castle in Cornwall by The Sealed Knot and set in the year 1646.	01326 316594	25-26
23-26	American Civil War Society at Grimsthorpe Castle, Bourne, Lincs. Camping from Friday. Tacticals Sunday. Guards to be mounted on Castle all weekend. Public battle Monday. Registration free £2.00. 5* sites not to be missed. Take A1 to Colsterworth roundabout. Then take A151 signposted Bourne for 10 miles. The Castle is situated on the right.	0151 648 3206	25-26
24-26	The Essex Military Vehicle Rally staged	01375 848489	
	by the Military Vehicle Trust and held in Tilbury Fort, Essex.		
	350th Anniversary of the Battle of Great Torrington, North Devon. Presented by the Knot. Further details PO Box 2000, Nottingham NG2 5LH.		
	The Eve of D-Day at Dover Castle, Kent	01304 201628	
	This is a major event for re-enactors and not to be missed under any circumstances. German POWs, 25 Pounder guns firing, and there is talk of a wartime minesweeper coming over from France. Well over 500 American re-enactors taking part.	01304 211067	
	World War Two event with gun firing at Fort Nelson, Fareham, Hants. See the Ubique Troop in action with field guns.	01329 233734	
	Medieval Siege of Scarborough Castle, North Yorkshire. 15th century troops supported by cannon assault the castle.	01723 372452	
	The Vikings at Bolsolver Castle, Derbyshire. Viking warriors, encampment and skill at arms demonstration. Battle starts at 3pm.	01246 823349	
	Demonstration of medieval combat at Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire.	01926 852078	
	English Civil War action at Castle Rising Castle, Norfolk. Event attended by The Siege Group.	01553 631330	
	The Harlech Medieval Society show medieval knights in action at Goodrich Castle, Hereford and Worcester.	01600 890538	
	The Roman Army of the Legio II Augusta present encampment, skill at arms and displays of tactics at Old Sarum Castle, Wilts.	01722 335398	
	Wellington's Light Cavalry presented by the 12th Light Dragoons at Porchester Castle, Hants. This unit won Military Illustrated's best re-enactor group award for 1995, and will be worth going to see.	01705 378291	
	The Society of the American revolution presents an 18th century military re-enactment at Elizabeth Castle, Jersey, Channel Islands.	01534 30511	

residents of Tsingtao in 1914 and 1915 there was an artist with an expert's eye for uniforms and equipment and a fine disregard of the penalty...'

Brilliant Brock

Congratulations on a marvellous magazine whose articles and illustrations are an endless source of enjoyment. Since my area of interest is mainly the 18th and 19th centuries, I would welcome more articles dealing with this period, nevertheless, I enjoy everything in the magazine.

With reference to the article, *An Unmitigated Disaster* in MI/77, I should like to make the following observations. The author's brutally honest account of this American fiasco mentions matter-of-factly that Major-General Hull surrendered Fort Detroit to Major-General Isaac Brock and Tecumseh. In fact, had it not been for Brock and this bloodless victory — Hull surrendered without firing a shot — Canada today would almost surely be part of the United States. Even given the ineptitude of the American military in this war, Canada would almost certainly have had to yield eventually to a power whose military potential was great and growing stronger with each passing day.

Brock, a Guernseyman, was a major-general in the 49th Regiment of Foot which had been ordered to Canada in 1802. In 1810 he was given command of the military forces in Upper Canada (Ontario). In the absence of the lieutenant-governor, he also assumed the position of 'president' and chief administrator of the province. He was, therefore, head of both the military command and the civil government at a time when the shadow of impending war loomed ever larger over the little colony. By word and deed he sought energetically to prepare the province for the coming invasion. He faced a critical situation, not only from the enemy, but from the alarmist outlook prevailing in the province. Many of the residents were newly arrived settlers from the United States whose loyalty to the crown was questionable. Others were passively patriotic, dubious of ever defeating such a powerful adversary. The attitude of the militia reflected that of the citizenry. Canada had a population of less than half a million, compared to 8 million in the United States. The bulk of the British forces, some 7000 of whom were fit to be called regulars, were in Lower Canada (Quebec). The only British regiment of line in Upper Canada, the 41st numbered 1600.

Undaunted, Brock sought to inspire confidence 'by speaking loud and looking big'. In December, 1811, he submitted a plan for the defence of the province predicated on surprise and bold offensive action, which he proceeded to take at Detroit on Sunday, August 16th, 1812. With a force of 700 regulars, 400 militiamen and 600 Indians, he

decided, against the advice of all his officers, to attack. Few military men in his position would have crossed a broad river and engaged a force twice as large in a fortified position. He acted from 'a cool calculation of the pours and contres.' He knew it was a desperate measure, but 'the state of the province admitted of nothing but desperate measures.' His intelligence sources told him that American morale in the fort was low and that Hull, some of whose family were inside the fort, was deathly afraid of what the Indians would do. Brock employed psychological warfare. He urged Hull to surrender, stating that while he 'did not want to join in a war of extermination,' he feared the Indians might well 'be beyond control the moment the contest commences.' His tactics worked to his astonishment and a white flag was raised over the fort. His brilliant bloodless victory over a powerful opponent silenced the croakers, revived morale, convinced the doubtful to openly commit themselves to the British cause and inspired the militia. The province was jubilant; defence of the colony was, indeed, possible.

A few months later Brock was killed during the battle at Queenstown. In reporting on his death, the *York (Toronto) Gazette* urged its readers to 'remember Brock'. A grateful public did, many times and in many ways, both here and in his homeland, for more than any other individual, Isaac Brock foiled American expectations of an easy conquest of Canada.

W. R. Wilson, Ontario

P.S. We should really erect a memorial to the British regulars who fought with unstinting courage and bravery to defend this colony so far from their homes and loved ones, in spite of the tragically cruel conditions in which they often lived and died. As much as some Canadian historians like to credit the militia with our military successes, it was, in fact, the redcoats that bore the brunt of the fighting in these battles.

Twenty-fourth Michigan Volunteer Infantry

Company K, 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry is an American Civil War living history unit based in the North of England and is actively seeking recruits to fill up a company strength field unit. The group researches and portrays all aspects of a company of Union infantry during the period of the American Civil War including period encampments, food, duties, drill, route marches and campfire entertainment. Please write to the address below for free information pack: Sgt. K. M. Lomax, Company K, 24th Michigan Regt., 26 Burlington Avenue, Formby, Merseyside L37 8DZ.

Womens Militaria

On behalf of myself and several friends who

collect Womens Militaria, I would like to congratulate Martin Brayley on his article 'The Wonderful ATS'. We read with great interest and all learnt from it. We as a group are dedicated to collecting Womens Services memorabilia, and would love to see more articles in MI about the ATS, WAAF, WRNS etc, in fact any womens service whatsoever.

A Womens Services society is hopefully in the pipeline and we would like to hear from other Womens Services collectors, Telephone (01252) 870923 and we will keep you informed. If the interest is there please call.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform all re-enactors that 'Fort Newhaven Military Display Team' is now recruiting. If your standards are high and you would like to be involved with a Living History association which is involved with some of the most high profile military and WW2 events in the country, please phone the number previously mentioned.

Chris Reynolds, Camberley

War Walks

Richard Holmes/BBC Books £16.99

Richard Holmes is perhaps the most media-friendly military historian. Enthusiastic and a good communicator, there is no better guide to the battlefields of Belgium and northern France. Able to take you into the very mentality of a soldier in the frontline, this book is full of vivid descriptions of the actual experience of battle. *War Walks* accompanies a six part television series on BBC2 of the same title and one of the battlefields described is that of the Somme, that most notorious of First World War conflicts, having its 80th anniversary this summer. Other battlefields covered are Agincourt, Waterloo, Mons, Arras and Operation Goodwood. An excellent guide for a European holiday with a twist.



Professor Richard Holmes in early 15th century armour for programme on Agincourt.

Book Reviews

Caesar Against the Celts by Ramon L Jimenez; Spellmount; 285 pages, 27 b/w illustrations plus maps; ISBN 1873376502. This is a familiar campaign, but it is enlivened by a readable narrative and Caesar's commentary is broken by recent archaeological evidence. A very interesting postscript is provided by searching for references to Caesar's campaign in early British literature, especially early Welsh chronicles which may have been a source for Geoffrey of Monmouth's history, including the description of Romans being decapitated by triumphant Celts attacking London which was backed up by many skulls being discovered at Walbrook. Sections of the Mabinogion referring to Romans may also belong to an earlier oral tradition and so gives an alternative view to the Romans. *Tim Newark*

The Samurai: A Military History by Stephen Turnbull; Japan Library; 285 pages, 28 b/w illustrations, 21 maps; ISBN 1873410387; £14.99.

A paperback edition of the book that first appeared in 1977, reminds us what a valuable service Stephen Turnbull has done in making Samurai warfare accessible to Western enthusiasts. With his first class knowledge of Japanese sources, backed up by frequent visits to Japan, we have here an excellent summary of the entire history of Japanese warfare from the 8th century to the 19th century with a majority of the book devoted to the most fierce time of giant armies in the 16th century when samurai warfare reached a bloody climax. The book reminds us of the innovative role of firearms in Japanese warfare with the battle of Nagashino being a classic example of its devastating effect, with the Japanese using volley firing techniques decades before they evolved in the West.

Tim Newark

The Forgotten Battle — Torrington, 1646 by John

Wardham. Published by Fire and Steel Ltd, Rockmount, Warren Lane, Torrington, Devon EX38 8AG. 208 pages, 87 black and white illustrations. ISBN 09526726 0 X. £15.00.

It is all too often assumed that the Battle of Naseby in June 1645 was the effective end of serious fighting in the English Civil War. Whilst Naseby undoubtedly decided the wars ultimate outcome, a further eleven months of fierce fighting followed. Desperate battles were fought, Langport, Rowton Heath and arguably the largest and most bitter, the Battle of Torrington.

John Wardham, a resident of Torrington, a lecturer in history and re-enactor is well qualified to bring this neglected battle to a wider audience. Making extensive use of both contemporary sources and his local knowledge, John presents a detailed yet well articulated account of the battle. The West Country was always a Royalist stronghold, and as late as February 1646 the King's forces could still put a sizeable army in the field under one of Charles's finest commanders, Lord Hopton. The work is not without its faults, it wrongly identifies Rupert as just being cavalry commander at Marston Moor rather than commander in chief and as hiding in the bean field at Naseby rather than at Marston Moore, and the map for 1645 actually depicts the positions of 1646. Yet this is just carping about an otherwise unparalleled account of the last significant campaign of the war. *Philipp J. C. Elliot-Wright*

The Anglo-Boer War. The Road to Infamy 1899-1900 by Owen Coetzer; Arms & Armour Press; ISBN 1-85409-366 5; 249 pages; £16.99.

This book sets out to defend General Sir Charles Warren's actions during the campaign in Natal to relieve Ladysmith. Warren was at the time roundly criticised for 'his failure' at the bloody battle of Spion Kop. Leading the criticism was Warren's commander Major-General Sir Redvers Buller, and it is Buller who receives most of the criticism in return. Deliberately

there are no detailed accounts of the battles; Colenso, Spion Kop et al. The bulk of the text is formed of large chunks taken verbatim from the Royal Commission into the War in South Africa (1903), the 'Spioenkop (sic) Despatches' (Blue Book Cd9685 — importantly, pointing out omissions from the published despatches), Hansard, the works of war correspondents Bennett Burleigh and JB Atkins, and the surgeon Frederick Treves amongst others. Much of this makes interesting reading, though some parts are turgid and repetitive. Much of the case for Warren is simply that put forward by his supporters after the war. Mr Coetzer's own analysis does not really go further. There is no questioning of Warren's dubious actions. Relying solely on the contemporary debate for and against Warren is highly dangerous. Each witness to the Commission had their own story to tell and their own motives for telling it. To say the least there was a fair amount of backbiting amongst the generals. The war correspondents had their own axes to grind against Buller. They felt his censorship too rigorous. An interesting book, on a critical aspect of the war that will bring to many first sight of important contemporary sources. However, I think this book will be seen more as a scenic 'look off' than a milestone along the route to a more rigorous analysis of this important period in British military history.

'Go to your God like a Soldier' — The British Soldier Fighting for Empire by Ian Knight; Greenhill Books; 260 pp, over 230 b/w illustrations; index and bibliography; ISBN 1853672378; £29.99.

This is a splendid book, packed with information and full of extraordinary anecdotes and accounts of Colonial Warfare. The tender and cruel side of the British soldier fighting abroad is explored vividly in the chapter about Life on Campaign. Apparently against the Dervishes

in the Sudan, British soldiers who paused to help a wounded enemy would frequently be attacked and killed by the wounded Muslim intent on dying a warrior's death; as a result, it became official orders to shoot and bayonet all wounded Dervishes. Similarly, during the Indian Mutiny, British soldiers flew into rages of vengeance when confronted by the slaughter of the native Indian soldiers and the Indians paid dearly. A strong point of Ian Knight's book is his frequent use of quotations from primary accounts to illustrate each point he makes. The quotations are long enough to convey the strange and alien world many young British soldiers found themselves in. Other chapters detail the equipment, tactics, and weapons employed by the British abroad. *David Seymour*

British Fighting Methods in the Great War Edited by Paddy Griffith; Frank Cass; 208 pages, some diagrams, bibliography and index; ISBN 0714634950; £35.00. This is an important book, bringing together the leading historians who form the new revisionist thinking and research on the British Army in the First World War. Essentially, these historians are looking beyond the Lions led by Donkeys views of the conflict in which all serious military science appears to have gone out of the window in a senseless bloodbath. These writers are pointing out the very real and substantial evolution of tactics that went on in response to the new warfare and how this had a very real effect on the positive performance of the British Army from 1916 onwards. Among the many important essays in this book are ones by Paddy Griffith, in which he assesses this tactical advance, Colonel Jonathan Bailey on the transformation of British artillery, Stephen Badsey on the misunderstood role of cavalry in break-through tactics, JP Harris on the rise of armour, and Gary Sheffield on the contribution of the military police. Fascinating and important.

Tim Newark

Ivan the Terrible's Elite Warriors

Raised by Ivan the Terrible as his elite footsoldiers, the Streltsi's reputation grew infamous until Peter the Great was forced to confront them. GORDON UPTON gets behind the legend and describes their appearance.

Little is generally known in the west about the colourful, bearded soldiers of 16th and 17th century Russia called the Streltsi. *Strelyat'* in Russian means 'to shoot', thus *Strelets* is 'one who shoots' and the plural is *Streltsi*. This is often translated into English as Musketeer or Fusilier. But, as we shall see later, their job was considerably more than mere soldiers, Streltsi played a key role in the history of Russia. They are not to be confused with the white clad 'Rhindi' who were the Tsars' personal bodyguard.

In 1533, the Russian ruler – and a contemporary of Henry VIII, Vasily or Basil III died, leaving a three year old called Ivan, as his heir. The Russian nobility therefore felt free to rule and kill each other, giving only passing consideration to their young ruler. However, at the age of 14, the young Ivan IV decided to resume his reign and had the leading noblemen executed for treason. This event was the first of many which would bring him the nickname 'Grozni' – Russian for formidable, dread or angry, but mistranslated into English as 'Terrible'. The desire of Ivan the Terrible (1533–84) was to expand his lands, particularly to the south and east. He wanted the lands of the Eastern Tartars and their capital, Kazan, which controlled the Volga and thus access to western Siberia. To achieve this, in 1550 he established an army of proper soldiers. He needed a professional and permanent army instead of the seasonally recruited feudal rabble of his predecessor, usually badly beaten by the more experienced and professional Polish or Swedish armies of the time. He already had registered Cossacks living along the Muscovite frontiers and these became the basis of his cavalry. But he needed foot soldiers and thus the 'Streltsi' were created.

In 1550 the first Streltsi, some 3,000 men, known as *Pishalshiki* because they were armed with a *Pishal* or arquebuse, were ordered to live in the 'Vorobiyova Sloboda' or 'Sparrows District' of Moscow, south of the great bend of the Moscow river, across from the Kremlin. Each Strelts was given a house where he could live and raise a family. He received a clothing allowance, food and as a member of the army,

paid no taxes. Like modern day Territorials, they were not permanently under arms and could have jobs and businesses, but had to go on manoeuvres or to war when called (when they were reinforced by a multi-class militia). In addition, they had to act as Kremlin guards, as policemen carrying out such duties as breaking up fights with the small whips they carried for the purpose and to guard the city gates. They also acted as firemen during the frequent fires that were common place in the wooden built Moscow. Because of the privileges, enlistment became almost hereditary with a boy being enrolled in his father's regiment as soon as he came of age.

Their baptism of fire was during Ivan's first campaign in 1552 when they captured the Tartar capital, the city of Kazan, after a siege. The event was celebrated by Ivan ordering the building of a cathedral dedicated to St. Basil, outside the Kremlin walls on Red Square. By the end of his reign in 1584, he had expanded the Streltsi ranks to over 12,000 men and included 2,000 mounted Streltsi. In 1605, they were used against a Polish supported defrocked Russian monk who became known as 'False Dimitri'. The real Dimitri, another son of Ivan IV, had allegedly died accidentally in 1591 during an epileptic fit. He 'reappeared' in Poland and briefly took the throne. Throughout most of the seventeenth century Streltsi fought against the Tartars. At that time there were three Tartar groups, the Eastern Tartars, the Crimean Tartars and the Astrakhan Tartars, all originally part of the once unified Tartar Horde. Streltsi fought them all and were also used as the main force in the suppression of the Don Cossack rebellion led by Stepan Razin in 1668-71.

Organisation

The Streltsi were divided into 22 *Prikazniye Polki* or Regiments, 16 based in Moscow known as the *Moskovskiye Streltsi* and with others stationed in such towns as Novgorod and Pskov, called the *Gorodoviye Streltsi*. However, the Moscow based regiments were all given numbers and were normally named after their commanders. Changing the number

to that of a lower regiment was a way the Tzar could reward a regiment for distinguished service, for example from No. 11 to No. 6. An exception being Regt. No. 1, who were called the *Stremyannoy*, meaning 'Close-to-the-(Tsars) stirrup' and had twice the number of men, both mounted and foot. The *stremyannoy* were rarely sent away from Moscow, being near to the Tzar at all times.

Regiments were divided into 1,000 men each, most being foot Streltsi, although the *Gorodoviye* regiments contained a larger proportion of mounted Streltsi. They were commanded by a *Golova* (Head) who could be a Prince or a Boyar. His immediate subordinate was a *Polugolova* (half head), a young man selected from the Boyar families, who commanded 500 men. He was in charge of five *Sotniki* who were also Boyars (and commanded 100 men), who in turn commanded two *Uriadniki* (50 men) with five *Desyatniki* (10 men) in his charge. The last two commanders rose from the ranks. However, in 1680, reforms by a favourite of Regent Sophia, Prince Golitsin, changed the names to a more western tradition. Hence *Golova* became *Stolnik* (Colonel), *Polugolova* became *Polupolkovnik* (Half Colonel), and *Sotnik* became *Kapitan* (Captain).

Uniforms

Russia became one of the first European countries to introduce regular uniforms for its troops, both cavalry and infantry. (The so-called *Polki Inozemnogo Stroya* or 'Foreign Regiments', made up of European mercenaries

Opposite:

Top, *Strelets Golova* (Head), 3rd Regt. *Streltsi*, 1674. He wears a crown device on his hat probably to denote noble birth.

Middle, *Strelets* standard bearer, 14th Regt. *Streltsi*, 1674. His *Shapka* (hat) rim is rolled down.

Bottom centre, *Sotnik* (Captain), 13th Regt. *Streltsi*, 1674. Note the length of the sleeves. Right, *Strelets* with a *Pishal* or Arquebus, 7th Regt. *Streltsi*, 1674. The *Sabiya* (sword) was standard issue.

(R. Palacios-Fernandez, Moscow.)



dressed, equipped and armed much the same as the contemporary European infantry and cavalry of the period, existed alongside the Streltsi.) Authentic contemporary documentation on the exact Streltsi uniform is scarce, as in the mid 1730s, a fire destroyed the Streltsi Department's archives. Consequently, one has to look to the civilian dress of the time in a regulated form, as well as reports from foreign travellers.

An English merchant, David Gorsey, travelling as a guest of Ivan the Terrible described 'A thousand Streltsi in red, yellow and blue garments, neatly dressed in velvet, silk and wool coats.' Another report from 1599 said '... the mounted guard of 500 men, all dressed in red kaftans.' And at an ambassadorial reception in Moscow in 1606 'up to 1,000 Streltsi in red cloth kaftans with white belts across the chest, were lined up in rows.' However, it would appear from the few reliable descriptions that no uniform as such existed until 1658 when the mention of a Service Dress or *Sluzhiloye Platye* appeared for the first time.

The most striking item was the *Kaftan* coat. These were state supplied and any attempt to make the Streltsi provide their own met with 'active resistance'. This was of a typical Eastern European cut extending down to mid calf. It was fastened with a number of oval or round buttons down the middle through gold or silver cord hooks, sometimes with tassels at the ends. The side pieces were buttoned at the side of the calf with up to three buttons. The officers' kaftans could have sleeves as long as the kaftan itself. The sleeves were often kept long so as to indicate that the wearer was too important to need to use his hands. In modern Russia today there is still a saying 'to work with rolled down sleeves' meaning to do no work!

The collar was folded down but replaced by a small upright one in the early 1670s. The kaftan could be lined with expensive fur on the senior officer's, usually ermine for the Golova and cloth or sheepskin for the other ranks. A field dress kaftan was also issued to the men, being of a black, brown or grey colour and without any lace or cords. A Swedish officer, called Palmquist, described 14 of the Moscow based regiment's uniforms in 1674 together with their flags which usually were co-ordinated with the kaftan colours.

Under the kaftan was worn a *Nizhny Kaftan* or Under Kaftan. This was a shorter, unlined version of the overcoat. *Porty* or breeches were worn tight fitting at the knee that reached down to mid shin where *Sapogy* or Jackboots were worn. These were usually made from yellow leather, although other colours were used in some regiments. These were knee length with heels and had various different shaped toes. All ranks could wear *Perchutky* (Gloves) made from brown leather and embellished with lace and river pearl designs for the senior officers. A *Kushak* or coloured sash was worn around the waist



Typical Eastern European cut Streltsi Kaftan. (A. Begunova, Moscow.)



Streltsi officer Kaftan. The sleeves are rolled up and the hole in the shoulder allows it to be worn as a cape. (A. Begunova, Moscow.)

covering the sword belt. The whole uniform was topped off with a high crowned, fur trimmed velvet *Shapka* (Hat) in the appropriate regimental colour. As with the kaftan, Golovas had ermine, O.R.s had sheepskin. In addition, some Golovas had a crown device made from river pearls on their Shapkas, but it is not known whether this was badge of rank or a symbol of their noble birth.

The final part of any self respecting Streltsi was his beard. In 1551, Ivan the Terrible ordered 'not to shave beards, not to cut hair and not to trim moustaches.' This was re-confirmed by Tzar Alexis. However, with their growing sense of self importance, it was ignored with many cutting their hair in a circle and make up their own minds whether to shave or not.

Flags

Each regiment had several different types of flags. The most important were the *Prikazniye* (Regimental) colours. These were richly decorated with lace, tassels and embroidery. These nearly always stayed back in their home towns and were only used for ceremonial purposes. The second type had the same function as any regimental battle colour and was the *Sotenniye* or Company colour. These were much simpler in design and decoration and their colour corresponded to the regimental clothing colours. The third type was the *Bratskiye* (Brotherhood) or *Pyatidesiatskiye* (of 50 men) colours. These were simple rectangular cloth flags with some geometric emblem, usually a cross, on them for ease of recognition in battle.

Weapons

The most famous Streltsi weapon was the

Pishal. This was a kind of Arquebuse or large matchlock musket with the muzzle being covered with a leather strap, enabling it to be carried over either shoulder. The ammunition for the *Pishal* was carried in a small bag carried over the left shoulder on a white leather bandolier called a *Berendeyka*. Attached to this were several wooden kegs holding the charge for each shot. Rather like the 'twelve apostles' of their English Civil War contemporaries. It is possible that a powder horn was also used, although information about them appears contradictory. The final weapon carried was the distinctive curved *Sablya* sword with its open hand guard. This was worn on the left and hung from a belt covered by the *Kushak* sash. The Golovas usually carried a gold or silver plated *sablya* and a long riding stick. Junior officers could also have a *Protazani*, a more ornate halberd.

The Streltsi Revolt

The Streltsi were sworn to protect the Government in a crisis. However, they seemed to have great difficulty deciding exactly who the Government were. As Robert K. Massey puts it in his book on Peter The Great, 'They were a kind of collective dumb animal, never sure who was its proper master, but ready to rush and bite anyone who challenged its own privileged position.' They had built up some rather good perks; having a lot of time on their hands and not many wars to fight, they started to return to their trades. Many opened shops and, as they paid no taxes, did very nicely. A Streltsi with a profitable business would much rather pay someone else to go and fight some border incursion. Officers discovered a use for the vast unused pool of manpower of the Streltsi ranks and used them as builders or



Left: A typical Streltsi of a Moscow Regt., mid XVIIth cent. He wears a bandolier similar to an English Musketeer of the same period.

Right: A junior commander armed with a Protazany (ceremonial halberd). He is wearing his kaftan as a cloak.

(ZeghausMagazine, Moscow)

servants while embezzling their pay as well! If the Streltsi complained, he would be khnooted or flogged. (A Khnoot was a short length of hard rope with a knot in the end.)

This is what happened in May 1682 as Tzar Fyodor III lay dying in bed. However, this time, the whole regiment, Griboyedov's, complained. As usual, the petitioner was sentenced to be khnooted, but as he was being taken out, he appealed to his comrades and was liberated. This annoyed the other regiments and the only way that the new Regent Natalya could placate them was to punish Griboyedov and his Colonel. The Streltsi now felt more powerful. After incitement by the jealous Miloslavsky family, they thought it their job to rid the state of all its westernising and reformist enemies, namely

the Narishkins and the other Boyar rulers. This erupted into a full scale uprising when two of Sophia Miloslavskaya's circle rode through the Streltsi quarter shouting that the Narishkins had murdered Tzarevich Ivan.

Upon hearing this, all the Streltsi, fully armed, marched on the Kremlin. In Cathedral Square, they demanded to be shown the Tzarevich Ivan. The terrified Nataliya then produced both Ivan and Peter much to the embarrassment of the angry soldiers. However, as soon as she disappeared inside, the son of the Streltsi commander appeared and attempted to re-establish discipline by berating and cursing the mob. This was the spark that unleashed the full fury of the Streltsi. For the rest of the day and for the following two days, the Boyars inside the Kremlin were hunted

down and butchered on the halberds of the Streltsi. Only Nataliya, Ivan and Peter were spared. Thus Sophia (and the Streltsi) came to power. The whole grisly episode had a marked effect on young Peter.

The Second Revolt

In 1689 when he was 17, Tzarevich Peter, decided it was time to take over from Sophia, who was showing signs of wanting to stay as permanent ruler, with the help of his Preobrazhenski and Semionovski Guards regiments. (He had assembled 'play' regiments of Guards during Sophia's regency at his home in the village of Preobrazhenskoye and the nearby Semionovskoye.) He still ruled jointly until Ivan's death in 1696. In 1695, Peter I set out on the campaign to gain access to the Sea of Azov. Here, beneath the Fortress walls of Azov, Peter demonstrated how inferior the Streltsi were when compared to his new regiments in both fighting ability and discipline. Many simply refused to obey orders given by Peter's foreign officers.

Since the overthrow of Sophia, he was always looking for ways to humiliate them. They were used as the 'enemy' in his war games, so they always lost. At Azov, the Streltsi were made to work like sappers building the siege works. Then they were left to garrison the town while the new regiments marched triumphantly back to Moscow. The regiments were transferred all over the country. Peter's intention was to keep as many as possible away from Moscow where they might cause unrest opposing Peter's westernising policies. The capital would now be protected by his Guards. This westernising policy was just one of a number of things that annoyed the Streltsi. Being posted too far away from town was bad for their businesses. Peter's order that all beards were to be shaved off or pay a tax also hurt. They saw their role as protectors of the orthodox faith, of ancient traditions and guards of Moscow, not mere foot soldiers to be used as the Tzar saw fit. Besides, he owed them some money. The only answer was to march on Moscow and make the Tzar see the error of his ways and regain the respect to which they were entitled. This is what four regiments did in the summer of 1698. But, in their arrogance, they did not reckon on the iron will of Peter the Great.

Peter was out of the country at the time and Moscow became seized by panic as people remembered what had happened sixteen years before. But the loyal Preobrazhenski and Semionovski Guards marched at an hour's notice and met the Streltsi some 30 miles northwest of Moscow. After trying to negotiate unsuccessfully with the rebels, they prepared to do battle. After one last attempt to placate the Streltsi, the Guard's artillery fired with blank rounds. Seeing that none of their number were killed, they believed themselves invincible and advanced. The second volley was not blank. After an hour of this carnage, they all surrendered and were put in chains.



Opposite: These drawings are based on the notes made by Swedish officer Palmquist in 1674. They show 14 of the regiments together with their flags. The regimental names are of their commanding officers of that time.

1st, Regt. (Lookokhin's)	1500 men
2nd, (Ivan Poltev's)	1000 men
3rd, (Bukhvostov)	1000 men
4th, (Golovilinsky)	800 men
5th, (Alexandrov's)	800 men
6th, (Kolobov's)	900 men
7th, (Yanov's)	1000 men
8th, (Timofey Poltev's)	800 men
9th, (Petr Lopukhin)	1200 men
10th, (Feodor Lopukhin)	1000 men
11th, (Vorontsov's)	800 men
12th, (Naramansky's)	800 men
13th, (Lagovsky's)	800 men
14th, (Levashin's)	1000 men

(Zeghaus Magazine, Moscow)

Right: Streltsi c. 1680 with arquebus and characteristic halberd. (R. Palacios-Fernandez, Zeghaus Magazine, Moscow)

After some interrogation, thirty were executed on the spot. These, as it turned out, were probably the lucky ones and the remainder were taken to Moscow to await Peter's speedy return from abroad.

This was probably the excuse Peter needed to remove, once and for all, the reactionary, backward looking, 'semi-medieval' soldiers. They had opposed his every move to modernise the country and what was the point of having soldiers who only fought when and where they wished. Peter was understandably desperate to know how far the revolt had spread. At Preobrazhenskoye, he built fourteen torture chambers to find out. For six weeks, the 1,714 survivors were interrogated and then re-interrogated to discover that their intention was to march on Moscow, kill all the Boyars and foreigners there and proclaim Sophia as their ruler. However, no member of the government or nobility was involved in any way, although Sophia stated that she would have not needed to be asked.

In all, about 1,200 Streltsi were executed for treason, mainly by hanging or beheading, with the more stubborn ones and the ringleaders being broken on the wheel. (The remainder were branded on the right cheek and exiled.) Their bodies were strung up at the gates of the city and other prominent sites as an example to anyone who would dare to oppose the Tzar's will. This has given rise to the notion that Peter the Great was an excessively brutal man, but Peter's reaction to a revolt would have been no different from any other monarch of that period.

End of the Streltsi

When news of the punishment of the four regiments in Moscow reached the other garrison towns, the Streltsi in them who were also on the edge of rebelling, had second

thoughts and stayed put. The following spring Peter disbanded the remaining sixteen regiments, confiscating their lands and exiling them to distant parts of the country to become ordinary villagers. They were forbidden to take up arms again. However, in 1700, the Great-Northern War against Sweden started and Peter needed more troops. To this end, several new regiments, made up of former Streltsi, were formed under close supervision. Their first action was at the disastrous Battle of Narva. Fought in a snowstorm, this battle lasted only two hours – Peter had left Narva several hours before to chase up promised reinforcements and had not expected such a swift Swedish attack. Had he been present, his opinion of the Streltsi would have been

confirmed as they were one of the first regiments to be routed by the Swedes. (Only the Preobrazhenski and Semionovski Guards took firm. This was not enough and over 8,000 Russians were killed or wounded with the loss of only 677 Swedes.)

The permanent end of the Streltsi came in 1708 following yet another revolt, this time in far off Astrakhan. Many had been exiled there after the 1698 revolt and were still resentful. This time they were defeated by Russian Dragoons and dealt with in the usual fashion. Thus ended over one and a half centuries of service to their 'Mother Russia'.

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Legionnaires and Amazons

Pushed beyond endurance by the King of Dahomey, the French responded by sending its Foreign Legionnaires deep into the central African jungle to fight the King's legendary female warriors. Drawing on French sources, **RENE CHARTRAND** follows the action.

The last third of the 19th century featured the worldwide 'rush for colonies' by the powers of western Europe: France, Britain, Germany, Belgium and Italy. 'Darkest Africa' which was then being explored was the main object of this colonial desire. The 1885 treaty of Berlin and the 1889 treaty of Brussels put some order into the conflicting claims so that various chunks of territory were reserved. With the notable exceptions of Nigeria and the Gold Coast, the British concentrated their large territorial gains to East Africa. The French, for their part, wished to put as much of west and central (or equatorial) Africa as they could under the tricolour. This would make, when united with their North African

territories and protectorates, a vast new French colonial empire.

The old French colony of Senegal was the staging point. The area of what is now the Republic of Benin basically held two native kingdoms. The coastal area, long used by slave traders in the past, was the realm of the relatively small trading kingdom of Porto Novo, the early Portuguese trader's name for the main town. Its king had settled on being a French protectorate. There was good reason for this because Porto Novo's neighbour in the interior was the much more powerful and militant kingdom of Dahomey. From 1882, small French detachments were posted in the ports of Porto Novo and Cotonou

Dahomey's foreign policy excluded any European domination or influence and king Glé-glé contested the French right to maintain troops in Cotonou. In early 1889, Glé-glé raided various parts of Porto Novo. The French response was moderate and only 60 *Tirailleurs sénégalais* and 80 *Tirailleurs gabonnais* were sent as reinforcements, while a French embassy sought a negotiated settlement but only found delays and humiliations. Glé-glé died and his son Behanzin succeeded him in January 1890. He was even more determined to keep the French out of his kingdom and had French traders in Ouidha (or Whydah) detained. As a result, a detachment of French Marine

Left: Bayonet charge of the Foreign Legion across the Adégon bridge, 6 October 1892. In the foreground, Senegalese tirailleurs give covering fire. Print published in 1894 after a drawing by Alfred Paris.



Below: Private of the Tirailleurs Sénégalais wearing the blue blouse. From a period photo.

Artillery with two companies of *Tirailleurs sénégalais* arrived in Cotonou from Dakar during February.

Behanzin now called on his army to assert Dahomey's independence from the French and actual sovereignty over Porto Novo. In late February, there were skirmishes near Cotonou as about 3000 Dahomey warriors and amazons assembled and, on the night of 3 to 4 March 1890, they attacked the town. After a night of desperate fighting they were finally repulsed in the face of superior weapons but only after feats of 'incredible bravery', the ground being covered with heaps of dead warriors and amazons. A French column of 750 men was soon

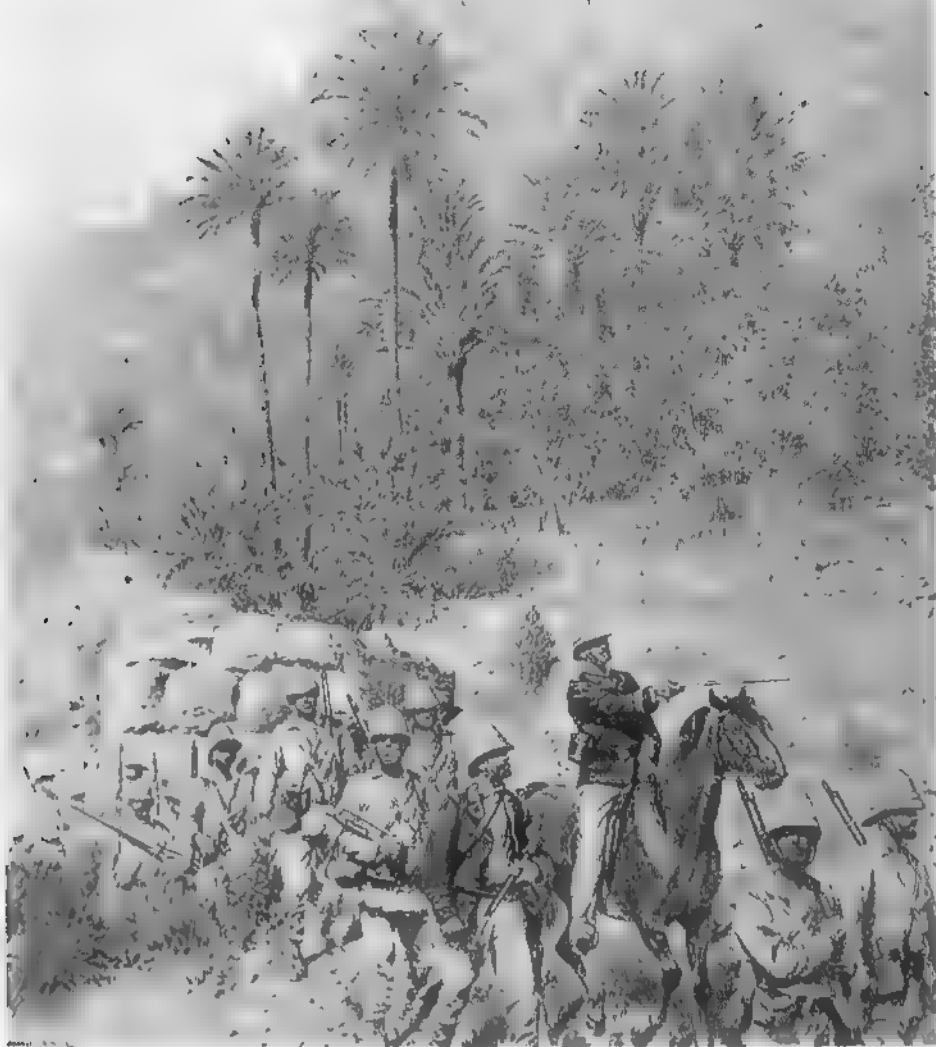
organised to march into the interior, but a few kilometres north of Porto Novo at Atchoupa, on 20 April, it came against a strong Dahomey army and had to turn back. Meanwhile, a French warship bombarded Ouidah and obtained the release of the French traders. From June 1890 to March 1892, a sort of truce prevailed with Behanzin preparing his army and trying, with limited success, to obtain modern weapons while the French fortified Porto Novo and Cotonou and raised local troops.

In March 1892, Behanzin invaded the kingdom of Porto Novo. For the French, the last straw came on 27 March when about 400 Dahomey warriors attacked without warning

a steamboat with the French Lieutenant Governor on board. They were repulsed, but France had had enough of Behanzin's aggressive policy. The garrison of French soldiers, white and black, which was less than a thousand men in April, had more than tripled after the arrival of a battalion of the Foreign Legion and a squadron of Senegalese Spahis, and stood at some 3451 at the end of August. Colonel Dobbs of the Marine Infantry, a seasoned veteran of colonial African warfare and a native of Senegal, was put in command of the French forces in Benin with instructions from France to invade and occupy Dahomey and capture Behanzin.

The French force on the coast was about half European and half African soldiers. Leaving a strong garrison behind, Dobbs, at the head of some 2000 white and black soldiers with 5000 native porters, left Porto Novo in late August and marched into the interior. The objective was Behanzin's royal capital: Abomey, about 110km to the north east of Porto Novo. With no roads, no reliable maps, uncertain intelligence information and dense brush, the French columns would have to follow the Ouémé river upstream. On 19 September, the French reached Dogba where the Dahomey army attacked them. Foreign Legion battalion commander Faurax was killed in the fierce assault which almost swept into the French camp but the rapid fire of the Lebel rifles and the French cannons finally discouraged the warriors after sustained heavy casualties. Thereafter, every day had skirmishes and hit-and-run raids by the Dahomeys but the French column nevertheless progressed. On 6 October, the French were up to a strongly defended 25 metre long native bridge at Adégon. Dobbs ordered that it be taken. Covered by the fire of the Senegalese Sharpshooters, a company of the Legion carried the position in a bayonet charge. The French column now left the banks of the river and travelled overland in almost impassable country that had to be cleared. The numerous skirmishes were punctuated by large-scale attacks by fearless Dahomey warriors.

But the French soldiers, both white and black, were a tough lot and determined to get to Abomey. On 14 October, the French reached Koto, less than 20km from Abomey where the Dahomey army was strongly entrenched on a plateau in three defence lines with cannons. Dobbs felt the position was too strong to be carried by assault; he sent part of his troops to turn the flanks of the fortifications while his artillery pounded the Dahomey positions, but on the next day, the French camp was nearly overrun by a tremendous Dahomey assault which was repulsed after desperate hand to hand fighting. Dobbs then regrouped and rested his men for a few days while keeping up the pressure on the Koto positions. Behanzin



Left: French Colonial Soldiers c. 1887. Lithograph by E. Detaille

Right: Hausa Sharpshooters with a few French gunners (wearing white helmets) at Cotonou, c 1892. Note the small guns on the turrets of the fortified bungalow in the background.

Right below: Senegalese Spahis troopers at the end of the 19th century. The soldiers on foot are Senegalese Sharpshooters. Watercolour by Marcel Toussaint. (Musée des Troupes de la Marine, Fréjus).

now tried to negotiate so the French would go no further, but to no avail; Dobbs was to take Abomey and, from 25 October, his soldiers attacked the Koto and carried it two days later. Moving in a square formation, the French column of now 1700 soldiers and 2000 porters, slowly approached the capital but had to repulse withering assaults by desperate Dahomey warriors on 3 and 4 November. Negotiations went on again as the French inched forward and Behanzin finally agreed to lay down his arms on the 15th but surrendered few weapons and set fire to his capital. Two days later, Dobbs and his men entered a partly burned Abomey and proclaimed French sovereignty over Dahomey.

French losses during the 1892 campaign amounted to 10 officers killed and 25 wounded, 67 other ranks killed and 436 wounded. Typically, and in spite of medical progress, fevers carried off 205 men of which 173 were Europeans, nearly three times the number of men killed in action, white and black. The French estimated the Dahomey's losses at about 2000 killed and 3000 wounded.

Behanzin, however, got away but was relentlessly tracked by French columns for another fourteen months until finally captured and exiled to Martinique. As for his kingdom and that of Porto Novo, puppet kings were installed for a few years until annexed to officially form the Colony of Dahomey in 1899.

The Dahomey Army

For centuries, the warriors of the kingdom of Dahomey were the terror of their neighbours whom they raided and ransomed for treasure, supplies and slaves. (For a detailed account of this army from the 1840s, see Andrew Callan's fine article in *MI*, No 30 November 1990. This article concentrates on the early 1890s as reported by d'Albêca and Aublet who took part in the campaign, and Baba Kake's study — see the bibliography below). By the 1890s, their army consisted of 14 infantry 'regiments' which amounted to about 12,000 regular soldiers in peacetime. The first 13 regiments were named after war-cries, while the 14th was simply called the Regiment of Muslims. All able-bodied men were liable to military service and many

would be mobilised in times of war, raising the strength to some 22,000 men. To these could be added the redoubtable but relatively small corps of elite women warriors called Amazons by the French.

The warriors of Dahomey were reported to be incredibly brave and fearless, reports that the French would soon confirm as very true. But they were poorly armed to face a European enemy army. The great majority had machete-like swords, daggers, spears, bows and arrows and clubs. Only about 2000 were armed with old French flintlock 'buccaneer' trade muskets, M1822 French carbines, etc. These musketeers carried a sort of cartridge bag containing cartridges and a bullet bag as well as a dagger and a hardwood club.

Each unit had a sort of 'uniform' consisting of a short skirt or short trousers of a given colour, many 'gris-gris' magic amulets hanging from the neck, the forearms sometimes covered with brass bracelets and a distinctive headdress. Their religious battle leaders, who often had broad-brimmed straw hats, were unarmed but would wave horse tails to encourage their men. King Behanzin's guard, selected from the best and bravest men, was about 500 strong and always near the king. They had a uniform described by d'Albêca as consisting of a red cap decorated with many small gold medallions or beads, a yellow sleeveless blouse with a 'tail' of braided cotton attached at the back dyed blue or red, short trousers with the left leg in black and the right leg in green.

The corps of 'Amazons' was certainly the unit that amazed the French and drew considerable attention from their press. A great many fantasies were written about these extraordinary women warriors including theories as to their possible relation with ancient mythology. The one thing they did share with their sisters chronicled by the ancient Greeks was their incredible bravery, which was real enough for the French and Senegalese soldiers who had to fight them. The French often reckoned the Amazons to be a large force of several thousands. In fact, it seems they were never more than 1500



strong, divided into two battalions: the 1st called the Goubé Battalion, the 2nd the Agodojyè Battalion. Amazons were quartered in the various palaces of the king in Abomey but they certainly were not concubines; indeed, they were not to have husbands or lovers and those who did were put to death along with their male pretenders. Amazons were recognisable by their white caps decorated with figures of lizards or crocodiles in blue. Each wore a sleeveless blouse and short trousers. Originally trained to handle swords and bows and arrows, they were entrusted with about 1500 rifles obtained from German traders around 1890.

The shooting of the Dahomey's artillery, consisting of six Krupp cannons bought from German traders, was reported by the French at Koto to be well aimed but many of the shells did not explode, the ammunition being apparently faulty. One suspects that, in the name of European solidarity, the German traders had something to do with this...

These Krupp cannons also had to be dragged with ropes by gangs of porters. The French eventually captured some and found the remainder buried at Abomey. There were also a fair number of old brass mortars and cannons, but in such bad repair that they proved to be of little use.

The French Army

Légion Étrangère (French Foreign Legion). A battalion of 800 legionnaires formed the majority of the European soldiers for the 1892 expedition. For the expedition to Dahomey, the Legionnaires do not seem to have worn the Marine Infantry khaki campaign dress (see description below) introduced for the Legion that year. Rather, they wore the M 1886 white colonial helmet with brass grenade badge covered with linen, the white linen smock (see below), blue waist sash, white linen trousers, white garters, black shoes, black accoutrements with brass open buckles, M 1887 Lebel rifle with black sling. The famous képi with white cover does not appear to have been worn during this campaign. Officers had the same campaign





dress and also wore the white and or blue seven button frock coat with gold rank stripes on blue ground.

Infanterie de la Marine. These troops were not 'marines' as in the British or American services but served as colonial infantry and garrisons for French naval bases. Part of the 1st Regiment posted in Senegal was sent to Dahomey for the 1892 expedition. For tropical campaigns the colonial soldiers had a khaki cover over the M 1886 white colonial helmet which also had a brass anchor badge, a khaki blouse with blue lace edging the collar and the top of the cuffs with four brass buttons, red or blue waist sash, white linen trousers, white gaiters, black shoes, black accoutrements with brass open buckles, M 1887 Lebel rifle with black sling. The men also had as part of their kit white linen loose shirt-like smocks with a turndown open collar called a 'bougieron' which was very popular; indeed it seems to have been worn on campaign much more than the khaki blouse. Officers had the same dress as the Legion's officers.

Artillerie de la Marine. One battery of the Marine Artillery was attached to the 1892 expedition. Like the Marine Infantry, these troops were not 'marine artillery' as in the British or American services but served as

colonial artillery in various parts of the French overseas territories. Their uniform was similar to the Marine Infantry but their khaki blouses had red lace instead of blue and the colonial helmet had a brass grenade badge instead of an anchor.

Tirailleurs Sénégalais (Senegalese Sharpshooters). First organised as a battalion in 1857, recruited in Senegal and became a regiment in 1884. Enlisted men, full dress: red chechia with blue tassel (sometimes shown yellow), blue zouave-style jacket with yellow lace, blue short vest edged yellow, red sash around the waist, blue baggy zouave-style trousers with yellow piping, white gaiters and black shoes. The men's undress consisted of the red chechia with blue tassel, a blue blouse with yellow lace at collar and cuffs and four brass buttons, red waist sash, blue trousers piped yellow or white trousers, no gaiters, tan sandals, black accoutrements with brass open buckles, M 1866/74 rifle or M 1878 'Kropatschek' rifle with black sling. The oriental style zouave jacket was ordered abolished for NCOs and enlisted men in June 1889 but was actually worn for at least two or three more years. From 1889, the men were to have the blue four-button blouse with yellow collar and cuff lace as their full dress and an undress khaki blouse with

yellow collar and cuff lace with four brass buttons, the other items remaining the same. The privates often had *gris-gris* amulets hanging around the neck. European officers had the same uniform as the Marine Infantry. Black officers had a light blue Zouave-style oriental full dress braided in gold, with chechia and black boots, undress consisted of light blue oriental style jacket and vest with no ornaments, white or blue straight trousers, boots and colonial helmet. *Volontaires sénégalais* (Senegalese Volunteers). These volunteers appear to have been used as auxiliaries to the Senegalese Sharpshooters. Three companies were part of the 1892 expedition. Their uniform was a red chechia with blue tassel, plain blue blouse with four brass buttons white or grey zouave-style baggy trousers, no shoes, tan sandals, black accoutrements with brass open buckles, M 1866/74 rifle with black sling.

Saphie sénégalais (Senegalese Spahis) This unit originated from a detachment of the Algerian Spahis sent to Senegal in 1843 which, in time, became a Senegalese colonial unit recruited in the colony. One squadron was part of the 1892 expedition. White colonial helmet with brass crescent and star badge, red chechia with blue tassel and the same badge, all red jacket with brass buttons



Left: Dahomey Amazons with hats bearing blue cloth crocodile emblems, showing them to be members of the Dahomey King's Brigade. Late 19th century photograph, perhaps at Crystal Palace, London.

(Peter Newark's Military Pictures)

and yellow crescent at the collar, blue or white baggy trousers, black boots. Ample white *bournous*, the long hooded cape typical of the Spahis. Officers had a light blue kepi with red band and gold lace, light blue dolman with red collar and cuffs, black braid and gold ball buttons, red trousers with double light blue stripes. The Spahis were armed with M 1822/80 Light Cavalry sabres, M 1873 revolvers and M 1874/80 cavalry rifled carbines. The saddlery and horse furniture were of the Arabic style like the Algerian Spahis.

Tirailleurs gabonnais (Gabonese Sharpshooters). Two companies raised in 1887 to garrison posts in the Gulf of Gabon, reduced to one company in 1889, served with distinction in Dahomey. Same uniform as the *Tirailleurs sénégalais*, but most likely only the service dress and M 1866/74 rifle. Disbanded in 1891 and probably incorporated into the *Tirailleurs haoussas*.

Tirailleurs haoussas (Hausa Sharpshooters). Four company battalion raised 29 June 1891, recruited in Benin. Two companies with Dodd's expedition in 1892. Full dress: red chéchia with blue tassel and brass crescent badge (abolished 18 August 1892), blue blouse with four brass buttons (and, until abolished on 18 August 1892, yellow shoulder knots and four yellow laces in front), blue baggy trousers with yellow piping. Service dress: blue blouse with yellow lace at collar and cuffs with brass ball buttons; khaki blouse with yellow lace at collar and cuffs with a yellow star added at

Above: Mock battle staged by Dahomey Amazons and male warriors. Note that the Amazons are provided with muskets whereas the males carry only swords, suggesting that the males embraced close combat while the females were trained as sharpshooters.

(Peter Newark's Military Pictures)

the collar on 18 August 1892, white and khaki trousers, no gaiters or shoes, tan sandals, black accoutrements with brass open buckles, M 1866/74 rifle with black sling.

Canonnières auxiliaires haoussa de l'Artillerie de la Marine (Hausa gunner detachment, auxiliary to the Marine Artillery). Red chéchia with blue tassel, khaki blouse with four brass buttons, red collar and red pointed chevrons at the cuffs, khaki trousers going down to the ankles, no shoes, tan sandals, black waistbelt with brass open buckle.

Garde civile du Bénin (Benin Civil Guard). Red chéchia with blue tassel and brass five-pointed star and crescent, blue blouse with red collar and lace edging the top of the cuffs, red zouave-style baggy trouser going down below the knees, no shoes, tan sandals, black accoutrements with brass open buckles, M 1866/74 rifle with black sling.

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Below: Male Dahomey Warrior. Many European observers considered the Dahomey Amazons more effective warriors than their male counterparts and king Gaze in the mid 19th century raised them to equal status. German photograph of late 19th century.

(Peter Newark's Military Pictures)



Fundamentalist Redcoats

A refuge for the dregs of society is how the British Army of the 18th century has often been portrayed, but JOHN PROUD tells the little known story of the religious redcoats.

'Drunken and licentious'. These are the words most commonly used to describe British soldiers in the mid Eighteenth Century. However they certainly do not apply to the members of the Methodist societies which sprang up in the British Army at that time. These groups were formed by soldiers like Trooper John Haime of the Queen's Dragoons (later 7th Hussars). Haime joined the army in 1739. Already a religious man, he was inspired to become a better Christian by hearing Charles Wesley preach at Deptford just before his regiment left for the Continent. At Dettingen in 1743 Haime got his first taste of action. His unit was among the first to make contact with the French. For the next seven hours Haime was under fire. During this time the man on his left hand side was shot dead. No wonder he later claimed that his sleep after the battle, wrapped in a wet cloak on the streaming ground, was 'the sweetest a night's rest as I ever had in my life.'

Haime's experience at Dettingen confirmed him in his faith. He began to preach to his fellow soldiers and anyone else who would listen. Growing numbers of soldiers were attracted to the meetings and this began to alarm the authorities. The officer corps was worried that another Cromwell might arise if Puritan thinking took hold in the army. The chaplains too were against Methodists. These men looked upon their positions as mere sinecures. They did not like being shown up by evangelists.

Word of this discontent reached the Commander in Chief, the Duke of Cumberland. Haime, the gardener's son from Dorset, was summoned before William Augustus, the King's second son. To his surprise he was given a sympathetic hearing and told to continue with his work. For his part Haime was able to convince the Duke that the Methodist soldiers were loyal subjects of the Crown who could be relied on in battle.

They got their chance at Fontenoy in the spring of 1745. There Haime lost some of his closest companions. Trooper William Clements refused to leave the field when his sword arm was shattered by a musket ball. Instead he fought on until his other arm was

hit too. John Evans lost both legs to a cannon ball and died across a cannon singing hymns while his breath lasted. Bishop and Greenwood were killed in action. Haime had his horse shot from under him and he emerged to see his officer decapitated by a cannon ball. It took a man of strong conviction to retain his faith after that.

Among the infantry that day was a young man called Samson Staniforth. A wild lad when he joined the army, he was introduced to Methodism by a comrade called Mark Bond. Staniforth made up his mind to reform while doing a stint of sentry duty in Ghent. He had a hard time at Fontenoy. His regiment made a frontal attack on an entrenched French position. When the flanking Dutch troops turned back, Staniforth and his companions were subjected to artillery fire from the left as well as small arms volleys from the front. Not surprisingly the attack was repulsed. Nevertheless they rallied and charged again. Again the attack failed and the British were forced to retreat. Fontenoy cost the little Methodist community of the army dearly, but the survivors emerged with their faith intact and their loyalty and courage beyond doubt.

After Fontenoy, Staniforth's regiment was ordered home to counter the Jacobite Rebellion and their presence at Derby forced the Scottish army to retreat. Once the Rebellion was over, Staniforth found himself back in Flanders. He next saw action in front of Maestricht. There his regiment found itself isolated from the main army and in great danger of being surrounded. It was during the hurried retreat from this position that Staniforth's great friend, Mark Bond, was fatally wounded and left on the battlefield.

Shortly after this action Staniforth was able to buy himself out of the army and he returned to England. Immediately he offered his services to John Wesley as a travelling preacher. John Haime left the army at about the same time and was snapped up by Wesley.

It is not surprising that Wesley recruited ex-soldiers. From the beginning he had valued order and discipline. After all, that was why his followers were called Methodists.



A Methodist soldier of the 10th Foot preaching.

Furthermore, Wesley knew from his own experience the dangers of preaching in the open air. Men who had stood unflinching as the cannon balls flew at Fontenoy were just the types to stand up to the abuse, stones and assorted offal that was usually thrown at his wandering preachers.

In addition to Haime and Staniforth, Wesley picked Thomas Mitchell who had served with the Yorkshire Blues during the Jacobite Rebellion. Wesley was also impressed by Sergeant Duncan Wright who had preached in Ireland while serving with the 10th Foot. Wright faced hostility from both Protestant and Catholic mobs as he took his life in his hands to give public witness to his faith.

Wright had been persuaded to join the Methodist ranks in 1755 when he met up with Corporal William Coventry of the Royal Scots. He first came into prominence the following year when the army decided to get tough with the many deserters in Ireland. Orders were given that a deserter was to be shot in every garrison town. At Limerick the man chosen to be executed was a twenty-two year old from Derbyshire called Joseph Newton. Wright was called to comfort the distraught young man. He was able to help the prisoner to compose himself and face his fate with courage. From that time onwards Wright devoted more and more of his time to preaching the Gospel. This hindered his promotion to sergeant and so many obstacles were put in his way that he finally left the army and volunteered his services to Wesley •



Getting It Right

The British Army began World War Two with a mortar well below the performance of enemy weapons. Step by step, it was improved, making an impact from North Africa to Borneo. E W ASHWORTH shows how the British Army got it right.

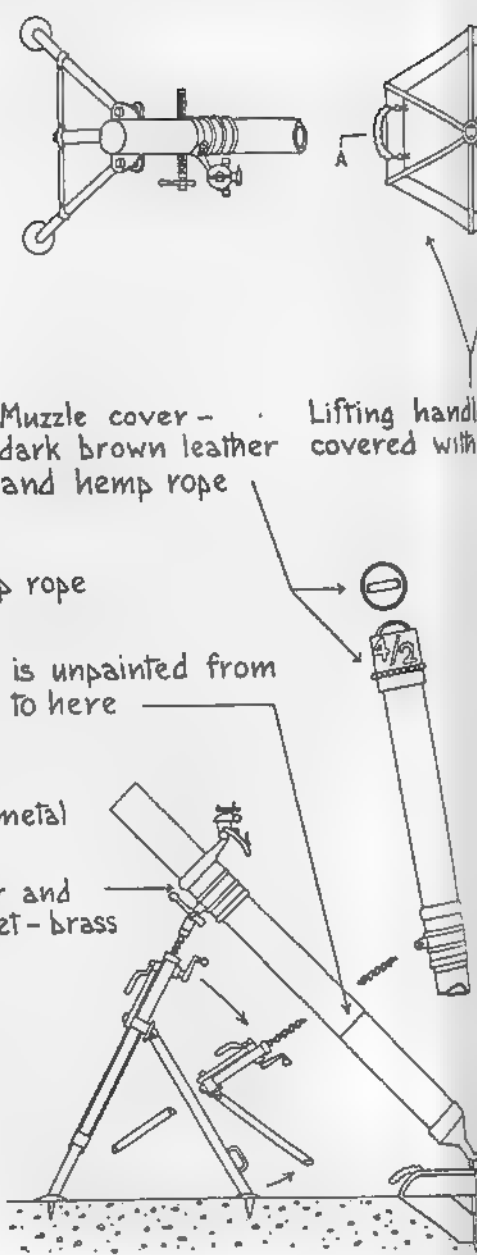
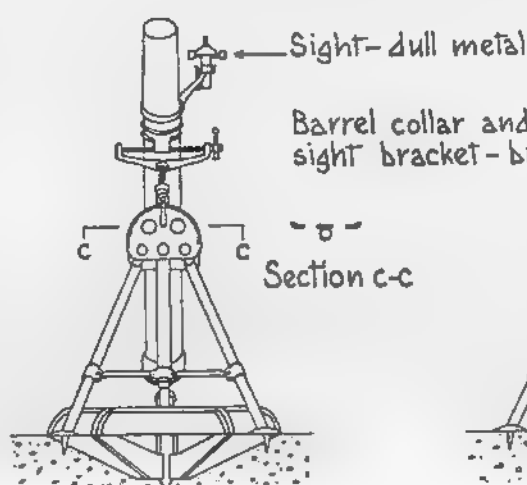
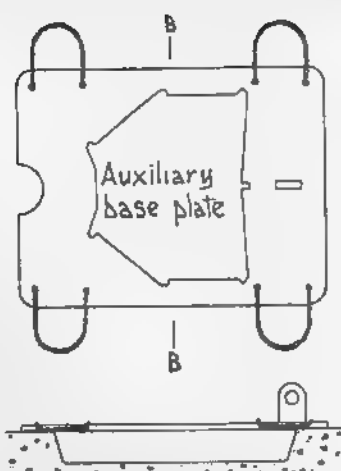
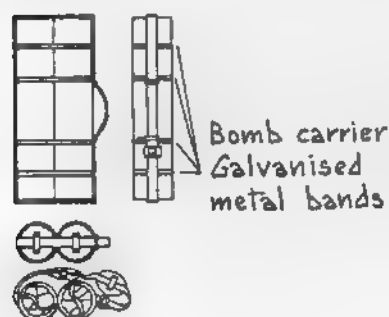
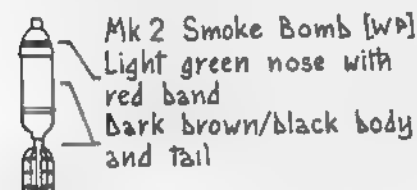
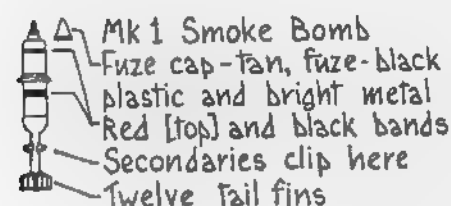
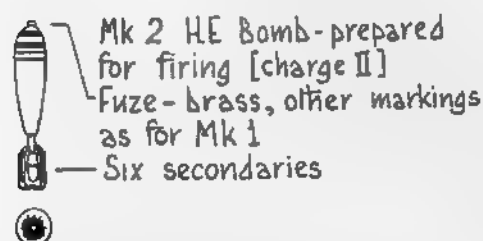
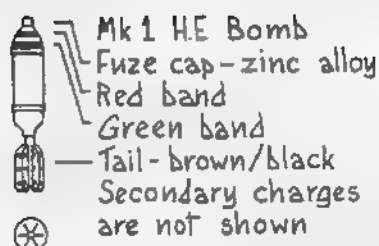
During the early years of World War Two, the close support weapon of the British infantry battalion, the Mk I 3 inch mortar, received a good deal of criticism. The first problem, which appeared during the Battle of France, was a simple matter of quantity that was quickly rectified by increasing the scale of issue from two mortars per battalion to six. A more serious failing was revealed during the early fighting in North

Africa where its maximum range, 1,600 yards, was found to be greatly inferior to that of German and Italian weapons, the German mortar ranging to more than 2,500 yards and the Italian to more than 4,000, although both fired a significantly lighter bomb than the British weapon. In response to this situation a programme was initiated with the objective of increasing the range of the 3 inch mortar to 3,000 yards. This

No 83 Chemical Warfare Coy RE, Tunisia, summer 1942. The mortar bombs have the word 'range' painted in black between two medium green bands indicating that they are ranging bombs produced for the weapon's original role. They are prepared to charge 2, alternate secondaries being removed to give charge 1. Note the mix of 1908 and 1937 pattern web equipment and that the bomb's waterproof protection is retained until the last moment before firing. (IWM NA2633).

proved to be unobtainable and a compromise of 2,750 yards had to be accepted, in the meantime British mortarmen experimented freely with captured German and Italian ammunition.

By November 1941 the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, was asking for a mortar with a range in excess of 4,000 yards. Fortunately, a General Staff Requirement for a mortar to equip Royal Engineer



Chemical Warfare Companies had been issued the previous year and development of a 4.2 inch chemical mortar was well in hand to meet this. Since the possibility of the axis powers resorting to chemical warfare seemed remote it was decided to adapt this for the close support role. This was a simple task because an HE bomb had already been developed in order to allow the mortar to be ranged without alerting the enemy to the fact that a chemical attack was imminent and the weapon was ready for issue by the early summer of 1942.

The Mk I 4.2 inch mortar was of conventional smooth bore design but unlike other heavy mortars it could only be drop fired due to the use of a fixed firing stud that prevented controlled firing by lanyard.

Its baseplate caused problems when first issued because it tended to sink into all but the hardest ground upon firing, eventually a solution was found in the adoption of an auxiliary baseplate to increase the flotation area. Toward the end of the war Jowett Cars developed a much larger baseplate with permanently attached wheels that allowed it to be towed by a jeep sized vehicle, although the preferred prime mover was the 15 cwt Fordson or, after 1944, the Loyd tracked carrier. The wheels were attached to the baseplate by means of stub axles that pivoted about their mounting points to allow the baseplate to be lowered onto the ground, this allowed the mortar to be used in even the most difficult of circumstances because the recoil was absorbed by both the

baseplate and the wheels. For some reason this item was denied the dignity of an official Mark number and was referred to simply as the 'mobile mount'.

The original Mk I sight was a very simple design consisting of little more than a range scale strip and levelling bubbles. This was considered adequate at the time because contemporary mortars had no great reputation for producing accurate fire, the 3 inch mortar produced a 100% beaten zone (the elliptical pattern in which its bombs fell) 600 yards long by 100 wide with 50% of these bombs falling in an area of 150 yards by 25 yards. The corresponding zones of the 4.2 inch mortar measured 280 yards by 140 yards and 70 yards by 35 yards and in view of this, and the weapon's longer range, it

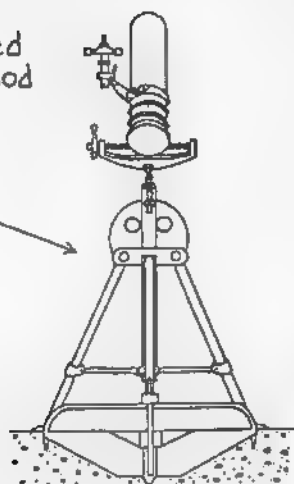


Section A-A

chains
anvas

British 4.2 inch Mortar Mk 1

Barrel omitted
To show Tripod
detail



Technical data

Baseplate	117 lb
Auxiliary baseplate	185 lb
Tripod	64 lb
Barrel	91.5 lb
HE bomb Mk 1	20 lb 7 oz
HE bomb Mk 2	20 lb 2 oz
Smoke bomb Mk 1	19 lb 7 oz
Smoke bomb Mk 2	22 lb 7 oz
Range	HE Mk 1 HE Mk 2
charge 1	2,250 yds 2,750 yds
charge 2	3,250 yds 4,100 yds
Elevation	plus 45 deg to plus 85 deg
Traverse without moving tripod	7 deg left to 21 deg right
Rate of fire	normal 7-10 rounds per min rapid 12-15 rounds per min
Crew	4

types of smoke bomb and of these the Mk 1 is of particular interest. At the time of its introduction the British army favoured the use of the chemical composition Hexaclonthane to produce smoke screens because its slow and cool burning characteristics created a better screen than the bursting type smoke bomb, the smoke of these tended to 'pillar' due to the hot updraught caused by the fierce burning of their contents. The Hexaclonthane was contained in pots that were ejected from the rear of the projectile by a black powder charge initiated by a time fuze. At the time of the mortar's introduction there was no spare manufacturing capacity in the UK to make smoke pots of the right calibre. The solution was to make use of the pots already in production for the 3 inch mortar, two of these were contained in a long 3 inch calibre projectile fitted with a 4.2 inch calibre discarding sabot that fell clear of the projectile after it had left the muzzle of the mortar. This bomb also used the same time fuze as the 3 inch bomb (the No 390) which was an unsophisticated design that relied on the burning of a ring of chemical compound for its timing and did not produce a very accurate ejection point.

Infantrymen were not keen to have this type of ammunition fired in close proximity to them because the descending bomb 'carcass' posed a considerable health hazard. Another defect that appeared during the fighting in Tunisia was the tendency for the smoke pots to roll down the mountainous terrain and create gaps in the smoke screen. Because of these problems, the Mk 2 smoke bomb was introduced which was a bursting type that used one of three fillings, white phosphorous, titanium tetrachloride, or a mixture of chlorsulphonic acid and sulphur trioxide. The use of the white phosphorous type was a considerable boost to the morale of infantrymen who knew that the fragments of burning phosphorous had a

considerable anti-personnel effect in addition to producing a smoke screen. The HE and bursting smoke bombs used the Fuze, Percussion No 162.

Initially, the 4.2 inch mortar was issued to Mortar Companies, Royal Engineer (the old Chemical Warfare Companies under a new name) and first saw action with the 66th Mortar Coy at the battle of El Alamain. After a shaky start caused by uncertainty about its proper role, it gave good service in the Tunisian campaign where the steep angle of descent of its bombs made it an ideal weapon for dealing with enemy mortars concealed in deep gullies and counter-mortar work remained its forte for the duration of the war.

During the Italian campaign it was issued as an alternative weapon to several Royal Artillery anti-tank regiments which had been found superfluous due to the enemy's shortage of tanks and the nature of the terrain. These units first saw action during the attack on the Gustav Line in which they supported the 1st Polish Corps crossing of the Rapido river with the fire of 72 mortars. The situation during the invasion of France and subsequent operations was, of course, very much different and in this theatre the 4.2 inch mortar continued to be a mainly Royal Engineer responsibility although some were issued to the machine gun battalions of infantry divisions as an alternative to the Vickers MMG. Surprisingly, in view of its relatively high mobility, the airborne forces were slow to adopt this weapon, first using it during the Rhine Crossing (Operation Varsity) in which it equipped the Support Troop of the Airborne Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment.

In the Far East the need for mobility in the jungle resulted in mortars being issued to some batteries of the Royal Artillery in lieu of conventional artillery, although these were initially the infantry 3 inch mortar and not the 4.2 inch. The Indian Army developed the Jungle Field Regiment in 1943 which had two batteries each of eight 3.7 inch howitzers and one battery of 16 3 inch mortars.

After initial misgivings the Royal Artillery quickly recognised the value of the mortar in the jungle and by the end of 1944 all anti-tank regiments in this theatre were issued with the 3 inch mortar as a secondary weapon and some received the 4.2 inch as it became available. It was also issued to some Australian anti-tank regiments and the experience of one of these units well illustrates what the mortar could achieve in the jungle. This took place in British Borneo where the lack of roads was preventing the field artillery from engaging a village the Japanese were holding. The unit studied their maps and located a stream which flowed within mortar range of the village and two 4.2 inch mortars, 60 rounds of HE

was decided to produce a more sophisticated sight for it. The end result was the Mk 3, an artillery type lensatic sight that could be used to deliver predicted fire when used in conjunction with an aiming post. This sight remained in service until the 4.2 inch mortar was withdrawn from service in 1960s.

The Mk 1 HE bomb originally issued with this mortar was designed to be ballistically compatible with the proposed chemical bomb which was an unstreamlined high capacity type intended to hold the maximum possible chemical payload. Because of this it had a maximum range of only 3,250 yards and was replaced by the Mk 2 streamlined bomb of approximately the same weight but with a range of 4,100 yards. The mortar could also fire several

and two native canoes were loaded into jeeps and transported as close to the stream as possible. The unit then carried all this equipment over 3,000 yards of very difficult country to the stream where it was loaded into the canoes and then pushed, very quickly, down stream. Upon their arrival at the selected position it was found that the ground was too soft to support the mortar baseplates but the party, having endured too much to be defeated, hollowed out the stumps of several palm trees to make suitable platforms for them and engaged the target successfully.

After WWII the majority of these weapons were sold off or placed in reserve but, having proved its worth as a close support weapon in difficult country, a few were retained by the Royal Artillery for use in the air-portable role. These were of the 'mobile mount' type and saw service with 170 Independent Battery during the Korean War in which a troop of this unit supported 1st Bn The Gloucestershire Regiment during its epic action on the Chindwin river. After the Korean War it was gradually withdrawn from service and by the end of the 1950s had been relegated to reserve status and six of these were flown out to Borneo during the early part of the 'Confrontation' with Indonesia, after which it was retired.

The 4.2 inch mortar never achieved the fame of the 25 pounder or Sherman tank but it was, never the less, a very useful weapon that enabled the Royal Artillery to fully live up to its motto of *Ubique* (everywhere). In addition to this the mobile mount was innovative and the use of the suspension to spread the recoil load can be seen in several modern heavy mortars produced by France, Finland and the former Yugoslavia. It is interesting to note that the British Army has examined several of these with a view to purchase but it would seem that this intention was thwarted by financial considerations. Had improved ammunition giving a longer range and more lethality — in particular shaped charge sub-munitions for the attack of armoured vehicles and bunkers — been developed for the 4.2 inch mortar, it would have made a very effective weapon for 'out of area' operations such as the Falklands.

Colour schemes

The overall colour of the mortar was the standard for the theatre of operations, sand yellow in North Africa and middle or deep bronze green (BSI colours No 23 and 24) in Europe. Much of the barrel was left unpainted to allow the barrel collar to slide along it and the front (toothed) area of the semi-circular part of the bipod crosspiece would also be missing a lot of paint either side of the clamping plate handle.

The basic body colour of the HE bombs was dull yellow for the Mk I while the official colour for the Mk 2 was deep bronze



brown, although the actual colour varied from a light khaki to black. Smoke bombs were also painted deep bronze brown with a sea green nose cap in the Mk 2 bomb and the entire body forward of the sabot of the Mk I bomb in this colour. A system of coloured bands was used to indicate the nature of the bomb fillings and these are shown in the drawing. The bombs' secondary cartridges were located between its tail fins and held in place by spring retainers, they contained a yellowish grey propellant although it would be difficult to see this because of the highly reflective clear plastic they were made of.

The bombs were packed two rounds to a dark grey or black waxed cardboard carrier and two of these were packed in a steel ammo box. When packed the bombs tail and secondaries were protected by a black rubberised fabric bag held in place by a white cotton tape, a loop of this was passed under the base of the bomb to assist in pulling it from the tube. A length of natural coloured canvas webbing was used to secure the caps of the carrier tubes and could be adjusted by a single buckle, when the caps were secured the slack in the canvas could be used as a carrying handle.

For those trying to imagine the colour, deep bronze green, let me say that it was almost identical with the colour that has been used to paint the British Army's ammo boxes from the late 1930s until the present. It is also so close to Standard Camouflage

The now renamed 83 Mortar Coy, RE, Tunisia, 6th May 1943, supporting the attack on Medjerda. The decline in dress standards since 1942 is very noticeable as is the total lack of concealment for the mortar, especially the litter of ammo carriers around it. This well illustrates the risks that can be taken when total air superiority has been established over the enemy. The tannoy on the front edge of the mortar pit relayed fire control information from the troop command post. Note the fourth (ammunition) crew member to the right of the pit and the pessimist/realist in the foreground who wears a large field dressing (shell dressing) under his epaulette. (IWM NA 10973).

Colour No 2 (BSI No 987c 1942) as to make no difference to anyone but a neurotic.

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 Photographs by permission of the Trustees of the Imperial War Museum, London.

Britain's Final Defence

Too often caricatured as a haven for the 'sick, lame, and lazy', Britain's Home Guard was a massive force of armed men who provided a very important line of defence. JOHN NORRIS describes their history and the CHATHAM HOME GUARD recreate their appearance.

The German Army began its advance into western Europe, through Holland and Belgium into France, on 10 May 1940. Only four days later the Secretary of State for war, Anthony Eden, later Lord Avon, announced on the radio the creation of the Local Defence Volunteers, LDV. It was a precautionary measure and called on the services of fit and capable men aged between 16 and 65 years of age. In barely a week, the 20 May to be precise, the number of men volunteering for the LDV numbered nearly 250,000. At this time the Allied withdrawal from the Continent, which was to become

known simply as Dunkirk, was still in the process of unfolding with the British Expeditionary Force as the centrepiece. By the end of May, matters in Europe had deteriorated but the number of men volunteering for service in the LDV had reached 300,000. The LDV was to be organised in conjunction with the Territorial County Association, and as such came under the operational command of the Commander-in-Chief Home Forces. The Director General of the Home Guard from 1941 until 1944 was Viscount Bridgeman, DSO and MC.

By 31 July 1940, with 'Operation Dynamo' complete, as the Dunkirk evacuation was called – the LDV was re-named the Home Guard. The first priority was obviously to arm and equip this new defence force, which was no easy task considering the BEF had left more than 500 Two Pounder anti-tank guns alone at Dunkirk. The order of the day for the Home Guard was to make do and mend. Various devices such as home made pikes and museum pieces were used, and in some cases personal shotguns were sported by members.

As volunteers, members of the Home Guard were not paid and were required to

parade for duty and training after working hours. Although the units were based on battalion organisations, such as companies and platoons, there was no fixed size as to the Home Guard's battalion strength. Therefore, it was not uncommon for a Home Guard company to have a strength of 300 to 400 men instead of the usual 100 to 120 men. Commanders of such units were not commissioned officers, but held ranks of appointment, and every member of the Home Guard was subject to Military Law as a private soldier.

The duties of the Home Guard included guarding centres of importance, such as telephone centres, bridges and factories and patrolling railway marshalling yards, ports and harbours. They even had duties to act as sentries at places along the coast likely to be used for amphibious landings by the enemy. About 142,000 members of the Home Guard served with anti-aircraft units and 7000 more

Recreated section of a Home Guard unit showing the Lewis machine gun team and a rifleman in a prepared slit trench. Note variation in headwear and the shoulder flash of the lance corporal aiming the Lewis Gun.





Recreated members of the Home Guard take up aim with their .303 inch Lee-Enfield bolt-action rifles of standard issue. The man kneeling has draped some dyed hessian material from an old sack over the stock of his rifle in an attempt to camouflage it and reduce the reflection from the wood. It is applied in such a way that it does not interfere with the sights or working action of the rifle.

Right :Recreated Corporal of the Home Guard stands sentry by the gateway in a strategic point. Note he is wearing Home Guard webbing which was a mixture of canvas and leather equipment. He is wearing a sidecap, denim and carrying his gas mask and non standard .30 inch calibre rifle of American design.

Far right Recreated Member of the Home Guard in a camouflaged suit.

in coastal artillery units. Another 7000 were trained in bomb disposal and there was even a Home Guard river patrol for stretches of water along the River Thames, and other large waterways. It can be seen from this list of duties that the Home Guard was not a haven for the 'sick, lame and lazy' trying to avoid service in the Army proper.

As 1940 progressed so the size of the Home Guard increased to more than 500,000 of all ranks. The presence of the Home Guard at this time, with the likelihood of an enemy invasion imminent, gave the civilian population some sort of comfort that an early warning or advance guard was out every night. The presence of the Home Guard also released regular troops for other, more pressing, duties. One interesting unit within the Home Guard was the 'Red Eagles' which was formed by some 128 Americans resident in London. Raised as the 1st American Squadron of the Home Guard, the Red Eagles served for the duration and even provided their own weapons and vehicles.

At first, the only item of uniform the Home Guard had, apart from their own civilian clothes, was a khaki armband bearing the letters 'LDV' in black. Members

who had uniforms dating from the First World War, mainly officers, did wear them, but it was a practice frowned on, along with the wearing of insignia and badges from former regiments. However, members could wear medal ribbons from previous wars including WW I. Later, as the state of the country became more stable and organised, the Home Guards were issued with denims and eventually battle dress uniform the same as the regular troops. The webbing equipment used by the Home Guard was specially produced and comprised of a leather belt and straps, web pouches and a special pattern water bottle carrier and haversack. Leather anklets were also worn in place on canvas gaiters and members frequently wore leather bandoliers across their chest to carry spare ammunition. The first real unit insignias were the Home Guard armlets and letters in coloured cloth to denote area such as N for North and S for South. These soon gave way to regional patches worn on the upper sleeve, and included ND for Northumberland, MX for Middlesex, ABK for Aberdeenshire and EHG for Edinburgh Home Guard. Other insignia worn on the sleeve included the number of the battalion to which the man belonged. Home Guard staff attached to District commands wore the emblems of the formations they were serving with

The type of weaponry issued to the Home Guard varied, from improvised to officially issued. Some units were issued with



the American M-1917 rifle, which carried a broad red band painted on the stock to denote it fired non-standard .30 inch calibre ammunition and not .303 inch rounds. Lewis guns came out of stock along with Browning Automatic Rifles. As matters improved so the Home Guard was issued with standard .303 inch Lee-Enfield rifles, Bren guns and in some cases .45 Thompson sub-machine guns. On the improvised weaponry Lt. Col. J. Lee said: 'A Home Guard weapon was one that was dangerous to the enemy and, to a greater degree, to the operator'. With devices such as sticky bombs, the Smith Gun, Blacker Bombard and Northover Projector it was a wonder that more self-inflicted casualties were not sustained in units

The official order for the Home Guard to 'stand down' came on 3 December 1944 and was fully implemented on 31 December the same year. Although such an order had been suspected since the success of D-Day in June 1944 it was not until December 1945 that the



Above: Recreated young member of the Home Guard relaxes, but is still reading training manuals even in moments off-duty. He is wearing a battledress uniform and beside his head is his steel helmet with hessian and netting cover for camouflage.



Left: Recreated patrol of Home Guard moves along a lane and show the method of spacing between members and styles of wearing the uniforms.



Below: Unidentified Home Guard unit in Camp. Note differences in ages with older men wearing medal ribbons.



Home Guard was finally disbanded. During the five years of its establishment the Home Guard strength had fluctuated annually and expanded to a peak strength of 1,793,000 members in March 1943, not including the 32,000 female Auxiliaries. It has been calculated that the yearly budget for the entire Home Guard was £16,600,000, which meant a per capita cost of less than one fortieth of an infantryman in a line regiment. During the war the Home Guard suffered 1206 members killed and 557 wounded, through training accidents and air raids. Members had gained acceptance and respect from all walks of life, civilians and military alike, who admired the devotion to duty. Thirteen members were awarded the George medal and two others were awarded the George Cross posthumously. ●

Recreated sergeant and corporal of the Home Guard discuss patrolling details. The sergeant wears a forage cap and carries a Sten 9mm sub-machine gun and has his gas mask worn on his chest. The corporal carries a non-standard .30 inch calibre US-designed bolt-action rifle and wears a slide-cap and has his gas mask slung over his shoulder. Both men wear the leather anklets and have the 'KT' patch on their sleeves to denote Kent Home Guard.

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With so many armoured vehicles left behind at Dunkirk, British national defence depended on less than impressive home-made vehicles. JOHN NORRIS describes some of these armoured oddities.

After the retreat of the Allies from Dunkirk in 1940 the British Army found itself alone and severely short of vehicles of all types. In the process of the mass evacuation from Dunkirk the Army had no other option but to abandon all of its vehicles, no matter what the size. During this period the British fully expected the Germans to follow up the victory in France with a combined airborne and seaborne invasion of England. Airfields were seen as being one of the most important areas to safeguard against airborne landings. To perform this task the Army and the Royal Air Force found themselves equipped with a series of odd vehicles which went under the collective title of Beaverettes.

These vehicles were named after the Minister for aircraft production at the time, Lord Beaverbrook, whose idea it was to produce in large numbers cheap, easy to manufacture vehicles, which could be deployed in defence of airfields and aircraft factories. In fact, the Beaverette was no more than either a Standard or Humber Super Snipe car chassis fitted with a body of mild steel. It was armoured with steel to a maximum thickness of 9mm, but some types, notably the Mk II, were armoured with a further layer of oak planking 76mm thick, because wood was more readily available than armour plate. In all approximately 2,800 Beaverettes were built in four marks, each with a crew of three. It is hard to gauge the true dimensions of the Beaverette range of vehicles because they varied so greatly, but the average size of these vehicles appears to have been 4.114m in length, 1.6m in width and 1.524m in height.

The Beaverette was supposed to function in the role of a light reconnaissance vehicle, but it goes almost without saying that had they gone into actual combat they would have lasted only a short time without having achieved any results. They were good for morale inasmuch that they proved to the public that the authorities were doing something relatively serious, on the face of it, towards the war effort. As a reconnaissance vehicle the Beaverette design would have been unsuitable, because as an all wheeled vehicle it would soon have become bogged down during cross-country operations.

The Mk I and II both had open roofs and could be armed with either a Bren machine gun or a 14mm Boys anti-tank rifle. The Mk. I Beaverettes were known by the Army as Standard Car 4X2 and by the RAF as the Car,

Armoured, Light Standard Type C Beaverette I, which was quite a title. The Mk III, commonly called the 'Beaverbug' had a fully enclosed fighting compartment with a small turret on top and was usually armed with a Bren machine gun, but the RAF often used Vickers 'K' aircraft-type machine guns. The Mk IV had only a slightly different top to its hull. The models varied in weight from 2,032kg to 3,048kg and had road speeds between 39kmph and 64kmph. Most of them were fitted with a petrol engine developing 45bhp.

Necessity is the mother of invention and during the early days of WW II this was particularly true of England. Despite what the propaganda machine fed the news-hungry civilian masses it was far from always being near the truth. For this reason many areas produced locally designed vehicles which were unique to that region. For example, the 'Tickler Tank' which was designed by Colonel Tickler of Maidenhead, Berkshire. This amounted to little more than scrap metal sheets salvaged from dumps and fitted to a standard car chassis and armed with a Vickers machine gun. Other such vehicles were improvised by enterprising Home Guard members, particularly in Kent where the threat of a seaborne invasion was greatest, and pressed into service in a purely defensive role. In many cases during the post Dunkirk evacuation period of 1940 these ad hoc vehicles were all the Army had in the way of mechanisation.

Due to their engineering workshops many railways and bus depots could build or convert civilian transport into simple armoured vehicles. One such enterprising firm, the Concrete Company Ltd, designed and built an enterprising and little-known vehicle called the Bison. It comprised of either a 6x4 or 4x2 truck

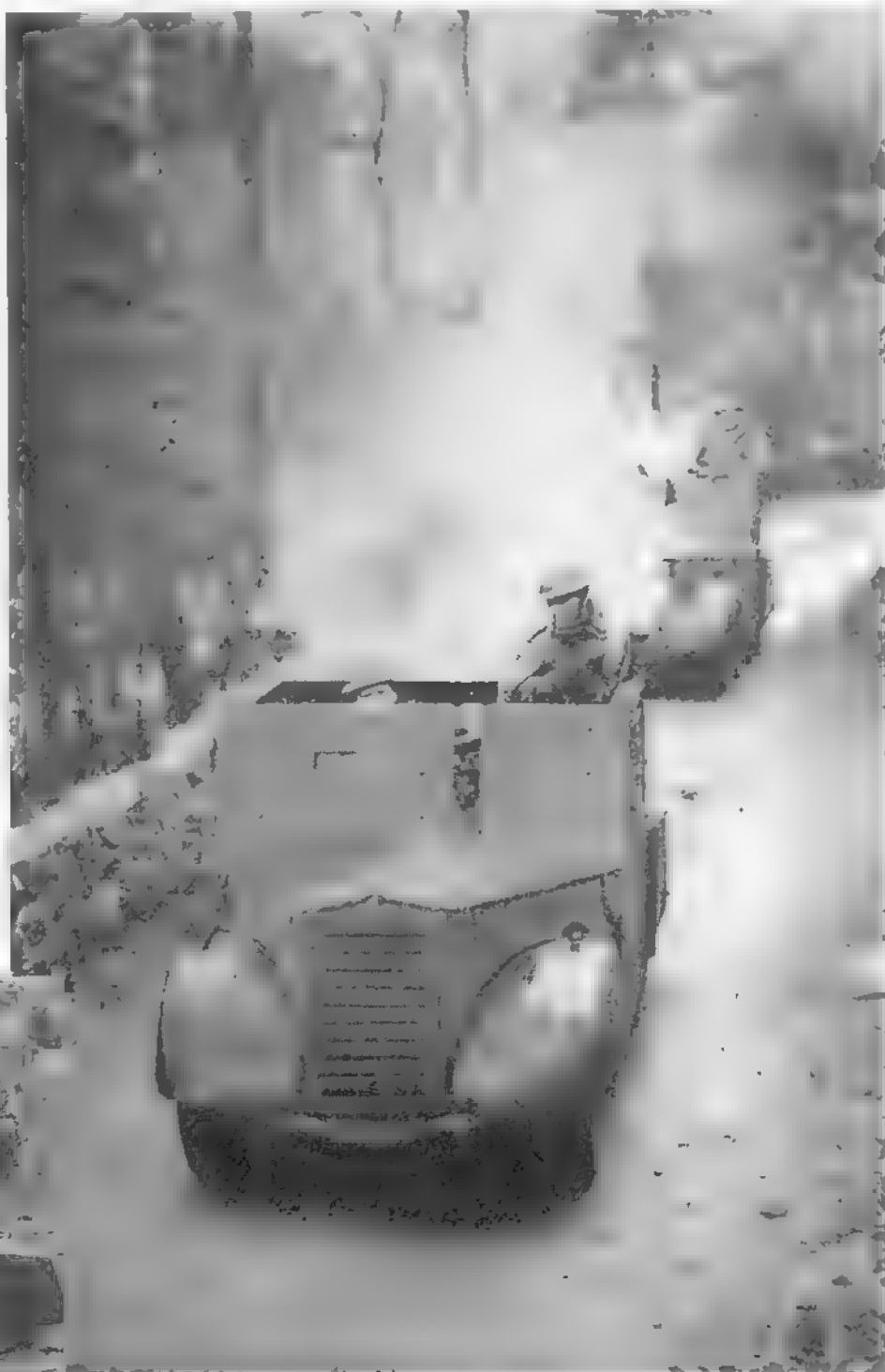
chassis with the driver's cab protected by concrete! On the flatbed at the rear, a concrete pillbox of sorts was counted to take a machine gun and the whole was to act as a mobile machine gun post. A number of Bison were actually used for airfield defence, being easy to operate and maintain. One more such invention was the Armadillo. This was an ordinary truck with a wooden box fitted inside a larger one and mounted on the vehicle's flatbed. The gap between the two boxes was filled with small pebbles, which were in abundant supply, and supposed to afford protection from small arms fire. The Armadillo was armed with a Lewis machine gun, which could be brought to bear on a target through the firing slits provided in the front, sides and

rear. Because armour plating was required for tanks and other frontline AFVs only the driver's cab of the Armadillo was armoured with mild steel.

As the war progressed and Britain became better prepared and equipped, these oddities passed over from service with the Regular Army to the Home Guard, who, it was thought, could use them to augment patrolling duties in their designated areas. The RAF still retained a number of Beaverettes to patrol airfields and were not called on to perform in actual combat. In retrospect, it is amazing to find that a country industrialised as well as Britain had to resort to such levels to provide armoured vehicles for its fighting forces who went on to win the war.

Right: Typical example of a Beaverette Armoured car as used by Home Guard units, here carrying three men.

Below: Typical example of a Beaverette Armoured car as used by Home Guard units, here armed with a single M.G.



Wellington's Light Infantry

Including some of the most famous regiments of the Napoleonic Wars, the details of uniform worn by these troops has been the subject of much debate and confusion. PHILIP J HAYTHORNTHWAITE assembles all the available information for a thorough analysis of these uniforms.

The exploits of the light infantry regiments of Wellington's army, most notably those which formed the Light Brigade, later Light Division, are known to all those familiar with the history of the Peninsular War. Perhaps less well-known are details of the individual regiments, of which seven existed during the Napoleonic Wars, one of which was officially not accorded a light infantry title until 1815.

The uniform of the light infantry regiments was based upon that worn by the light companies of each line regiment, characterised by short jackets (worn by light infantry officers before they were introduced generally in 1812), shoulder wings, 'stovepipe' caps with bugle-horn badge and green plume, corded sashes for officers in place of the ordinary 'tailed' version, and light infantry weaponry. Curiously, field officers wore the epaulettes indicative of their rank on top of their wings, and a further distinction was the use of small-sized buttons on the jacket-breast, rather than the larger buttons used by other infantry. Each regiment had its own design of insignia, wings, etc, which in some cases were not constant throughout the period, and while the following details are not comprehensive, they do include a number of noted regimental distinctions, in general covering only the period after the various corps had been converted to light infantry. Details of other ranks' lace sometimes conflicts in various sources; information may be found in the 1802 Clothing Regulations¹, De Bosser's chart *A View of the British Army on the Peace Establishment in the Year 1803*, and in Charles Hamilton Smith's *Costume of the Army of the British Empire* (1812-15). Also of great value is 'Redcoat: the Regimental Coat of the British Infantryman c1808-15', GA Steppler, *Military Illustrated* Nos 20-22, which includes details from the pattern-records of the tailors JN & B Pearse. As with details of uniform, there is room below for only the briefest details of regimental service during the Napoleonic Wars.

43rd (Monmouthshire) Regiment

The senior of the light infantry regiments, the 43rd had been raised in 1741 and was styled



Major Hungerford Elers, 43rd (Monmouthshire) Regt, who died in the Peninsula in 1811. The absence of wings may imply a light company uniform prior to conversion to light infantry, but an order of March 1809 which instructed flank company and light infantry officers to wear wings may have been necessary to reintroduce wings into regiments which had unofficially replaced them.

'Monmouthshire' from 1782. Its single battalion served in the West Indies in the French Revolutionary Wars and returned home in 1801; in July 1803 the regiment was converted to light infantry and brigaded with the 52nd and 95th Rifles at Shorncliffe, where the light infantry tactics were perfected under Sir John Moore. A 2nd Battn was formed in November 1804, serving in the Corunna campaign and at Walcheren, but thereafter acted as a home depot for the 1st Battn and was disbanded in 1817. The 1st Battn served

at Copenhagen, in the Corunna campaign, and returning to the Peninsula in 1809 performed with the greatest distinction as part of the Light Division for the remainder of the war. Then sent to America, it returned to Europe for the occupation of France.

Colonels: April 1792, General Edward Smith; January 1809, General Sir John Cradock.

Uniform: facings white, officers' lace silver, other ranks' lace in pairs, square-ended, with one red and one black stripe. The prestige associated with conversion to light infantry appears to have had a marked effect upon the regiment's appearance, George Elers remarked that 'When I last saw the regiment [in 1796] they were the worst dressed regiment I ever saw. Ten years after they were, without any exception, the finest body of men I ever saw, so well dressed, and men all of the same height. In short, they were Light Infantry, and the officers all superb'. Indeed, the officers were renowned for the ornateness of their uniform, contrasting sharply with the very plain dress of their Light Division comrades, the 52nd. An example was Capt Samuel Hobkirk, who was reputed to spend £1,000 pa on his uniform, and when dining with Marshal Soult after his capture in 1813 was mistaken for a field-marshal on account of the richness of his dress. The most elaborate item of uniform was a hussar-style pelisse adopted by officers at the time of the Peninsular War, in scarlet or grey with grey fur and silver lace. The regimental design of officers' wing was scarlet, bearing a single row of plaited chain on wing and strap, joined in the centre of the wing by a large ring, surrounding an embroidered silver bugle with '43' between the strings; around the edges was silver cord outside a line of silver S-pattern embroidery, with a double row of silver bullions on the end of the wing'. Unusually, some portraits show epaulettes instead: that of Hungerford Elers (depicting a silver epaulette with a double line of red cloth visible on the strap between silver lace, an outer edge apparently of mixed red and silver cord, and a red and silver rosette on the end of the strap), may conceivably date from the period before conversion to light infantry, the light infantry



Above: The classic light infantry uniform of the Peninsular War era: officer (left) and private, 85th Bucks Volunteers. (Print after P W Reynolds).

cap and belt-plate identifying the light company when the 43rd was still a line regiment; but a portrait of James Fergusson, supposedly as a lieutenant (1804-06) and certainly after the conversion to light infantry, shows one and probably two epaulettes but no wings

A curious distinction of the 43rd was the use by officers of gilt shoulder belt plates, even though they had silver lace. Before conversion to light infantry, the oval gilt plates bore '43' within an oval, both in silver; for the light company there was a bugle over the number. This may have been used after conversion, but a later rectangular pattern in gilt bore a bugle with '43' within the strings, with a crown subsequently added above; variations are recorded in the design of the bugle-cords, and the same is recorded all in silver⁴. Another, perhaps intermediate design, was oval, gilt, bearing a crown over a bugle with '43' within the strings, in silver'. The

other ranks' plate apparently bore just '43' stamped upon it. The officers' silver buttons bore a crowned, lined strap enclosing '43'; the other ranks' design was the number within a laurel wreath. There was apparently a regimental design of officers' sabre, which had a gilded lion-head pommel and stirrup hilt instead of the 1803 regulation flank company pattern; the



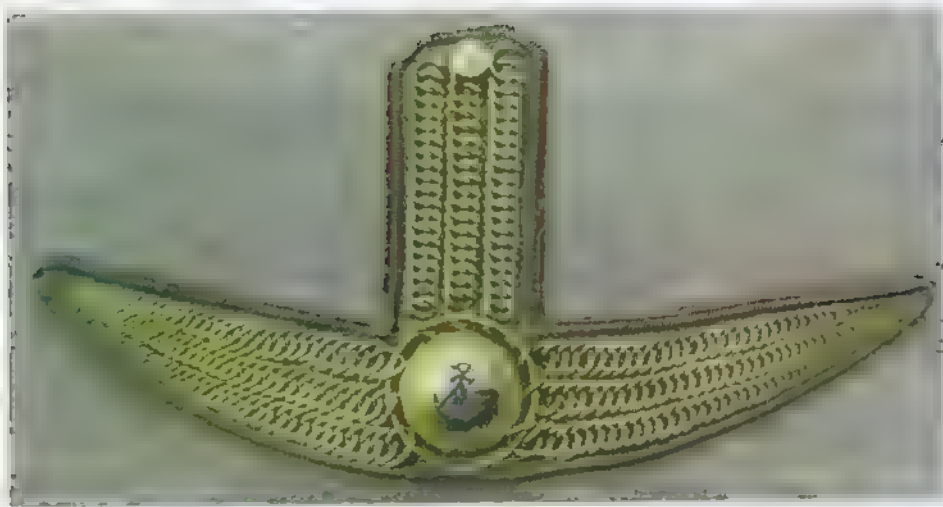
Above: Light Infantry officer, 1815: a print by Genty showing the sword suspended from a waist belt, as used by field officers.



Left: By way of comparison, a portrait of a light company officer of a line regiment: Englebert Lutyens of the 20th (East Devonshire) Regt, showing a simple wing.

circular langets bore an embossed bugle, the regimental identification was carried on the blade, and the fishskin grip is recorded either plain or with two gilt quatrefoil rivets. The 43rd was one of those regiments which wore white overalls at a quite early date: they are known to have worn them at Vimeiro.

51st (2nd Yorkshire West Riding) Regt
Raised in 1755 as the 53rd and re-numbered in 1757, the 51st was recruited in Yorkshire from the beginning, hence the grant of the title '2nd West Riding' in 1782. In Gibraltar at the outbreak of the French Revolutionary



Left: Officer's wing: an elaborate example with gilt chains.

Below: Field officer's epaulette in silver lace, with the light infantry bugle badge above the star.



Right: Lieut James Fergusson, 43rd (Monmouthshire) Regt, showing the light infantry belt-plate but no wings.

Wars. It served in the Mediterranean, in Portugal in 1798 and from that autumn until 1807, after a brief posting to the Cape, served in India and Ceylon. After serving in the Corunna campaign, the regiment was converted to light infantry in May 1809; after Walcheren it joined the Peninsular army (February 1811), serving in the 7th Division until the conclusion of the war. In the Waterloo campaign it served in Mitchell's Brigade of the 4th Division, and returned home in January 1816.

Colonels: June 1767, General Archibald Montgomerie, 11th Earl of Eglinton; December 1795, Lieut Gen Anthony Martin; May 1800, General William Morshead.

Uniform: facings deep, later grass green, officers: lace gold; other ranks' lace originally square-ended (De Bosset), later pointed, with green worm (Pearse's book suggests the loops were of the pointed type used by the Coldstream Guards, and had the green on the outside), and in pairs. The officers' belt-plates were rectangular, gilt, bearing a design in silver of a crown over '51', surrounded by a wreath of laurel, with a scroll below inscribed 'Minden'. Presumably the other ranks' plates were similar, as William Wheeler recorded how, on 1 August 1809, his colonel had reminded the regiment that it was the fiftieth anniversary of Minden, and how that name was inscribed on the colours and breast-plates. The officers' buttons bore the same devices.

52nd (Oxfordshire Regiment)

Raised as the 54th in 1756 and re-numbered in February 1757, the 52nd received the title 'Oxfordshire' in 1782. From 1783 to 1798 it was in India; after returning home, a 2nd battalion was raised, and from 1800 the 1st Bttn was employed at Gibraltar, the Mediterranean and Portugal. In January 1803 the regiment was converted to light infantry — the first so distinguished — whereupon the men sufficiently nimble were concentrated into the 1st Bttn, the remainder being transferred to the 2nd, which was given independent existence as the 96th Foot. A new 2nd Bttn 52nd was formed

in 1804, both battalions training at Shortcliffe under Moore; the 1st then served in Sicily in 1806-07, the 2nd in Denmark in 1807, and then both in the Peninsular. After Corunna the 1st Bttn returned to Portugal and served with great distinction in the Light Division throughout the war; after Walcheren the 2nd Bttn joined the Light Division (March 1811) but in April 1812 was drafted into the 1st Bttn, the cadre returning home to reform. It served in the Netherlands in 1813-14 and was used to reinforce the 1st Bttn which arrived in 1815, the cadre returning home where it was disbanded in March 1816. The 1st Bttn served in Adam's Brigade of the 2nd Division in the 1815 campaign, playing a distinguished role at Waterloo.

Colonels: May 1778, General Cyrus Trapaud; May 1801, Lieut Gen Sir John Moore; January 1809, Gen Sir George Townshend Walker Bt

Uniform: facings buff, officers' lace silver (but no lace button-loops), other ranks' lace square-ended, in pairs, recorded variously: red worm and orange stripe, red stripe between two blue, or black stripe on one edge and blue on another. Portraits show the officers' wing with a single line of curb-chain on the wing; but an extant jacket has the same scarlet ground, but with wing and strap both edged with chain, with a silver, hemispherical boss at the intersection of strap and wing, bearing a gilt bugle within a laurel wreath, with silver bullion tassels. The design of officer's shoulder belt plate is recorded variously; Almack's transcription of a pattern book shows an oblong silver plate with rounded corners, bearing a crowned strap inscribed 'Oxford Regiment' surrounding '52', but an extant example has 'Oxfordshire Regt' instead. A portrait shows a similar

plate with an oval device above '52', while Hamilton Smith's print depicts a plate with just '52', the other ranks' version being the same but in brass. Officers' buttons were silver, bearing '52' within a crowned laurel wreath, with 'Oxfordshire' below. The officers carried a regimental pattern of sabre with a steel stirrup hilt; with plain, shield-shaped langers and fish-skin grips bearing on each side two rosettes with a bugle between, in silver; these swords cost four guineas each. A variation, perhaps carried by field officers, had a gilded stirrup hilt with lion-head pommel, no decoration on the grip, langers bearing a bugle, and steel scabbard. As colonel, Sir John Moore in 1808 supplied the regiment with belts 1/2 inch broader than those allowed by regulations, the increased width (2 1/8 inches) being more comfortable, and this was later copied by other regiments. A singular distinction worn by the survivors of the storming-parties of Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz was a badge worn upon the arm consisting of a laurel-branch above the letters 'VS' ('Valiant Stormer'); but it was reported that they were discontinued to avoid giving offence to other regiments!

68th (Durham) Regiment

Raised in 1756 as the 2nd Bttn 23rd and made independent in 1758 as the 68th, the

After conversion to light infantry their buttons were convex, bearing a crown over a bugle with '68' between the strings.

71st Highland Regiment

Raised as the 73rd in 1777 and re-numbered as the 71st Highlanders in 1786, the regiment was in India at the commencement of the French Revolutionary Wars and remained there until 1798, when the cadre returned home. A 2nd Battn was raised in 1803 but remained at home as a depot until disbandment in 1815. The 1st Battn served at

the Cape in 1806 and was taken prisoner in the subsequent South American expedition; after its return from the Corunna campaign it was converted to light infantry (March 1809). In 1808 it was retitled the 71st (Glasgow Highland) Regt, in 1809 the 71st (Glasgow Highland) Light Infantry, and in 1810 the 71st (Highland Light Infantry). After Walcheren the 1st Battn returned to the Peninsula (September 1810) as part of the 1st Division, transferring to the 2nd in June 1811, in which it served for the remainder of the war. It formed part of Adam's Brigade of the 2nd Division in the Waterloo campaign.

Colonels: April 1789, Gen Hon William Gordon; Aug 1803, Gen Sir John Cradock; January 1809, Gen Francis Dundas

Uniform: facings buff, officers' lace silver (no button-loops); other ranks' lace square-ended, spaced singly, with red stripe. On conversion to light infantry the regiment secured permission to retain such elements of

regiment was recruited largely from Durham and took that title in 1782 in accordance with the wishes of its colonel, John Lambton, grandfather of the 1st Earl of Durham and MP for Durham city 1762-87. In the early French Revolutionary Wars the 68th was in the West Indies, and in Ireland in 1798; again in the West Indies 1801-06, in September 1808 it was converted to light infantry. After Walcheren it joined the Peninsular army (July 1811) and served in the 7th Division to the end of the war. A 2nd Battn was formed in 1800, served in the West Indies with the 1st Battn and was absorbed into it in September 1802.

Colonels: March 1794, Maj Gen John Mansel; April 1794, Maj Gen Thomas Dundas; August 1794, Field-Marshal Sir Alured Clarke; October 1794, Lt Gen Hon Sir Charles Stuart; March 1795 Gen Sir Thomas Trigge; May 1809, Gen Sir John Sherbrooke; January 1813, Gen Sir Henry Warde.

Uniform: facings deep green, officers' lace silver, other ranks' lace square-ended, in pairs, with yellow and black stripes (Pearse's pattern states 'yellow edge in'; Hamilton Smith gives red and green stripes). The officers' shoulder belt plate was silver, oval with a raised rim and central device of a crowned, raised oval surrounding raised '68'

Right: William Napier, 43rd (Monmouthshire) Regt, showing the field officers' epaulette worn atop the wings, and the unique regimental pelisse.





Left: A rare example of light infantry insignia: a silver clasp for a field officer's waist-belt, bearing a reverse 'GR' cypher between the strings of the bugle.

its previous Highland dress as would not interfere with light infantry duties, including the retention of bagpipers. In place of the ordinary light infantry shako, the regiment used the Highland bonnet blocked into the shape of a shako, with peak, in dark blue with diced border, a bugle badge on the front, and probably retaining the tuft or 'tourie' on top.

Officers wore the ordinary light infantry cap, and retained the Highland-style shoulder-sash instead of adopting the corded light infantry waist-sash. Officers wore two buttons on each side of the collar, and some depictions of their jacket show a large number of buttons — 12 or even more — on each side of the breast (for example, a portrait of Donald Campbell, Lieutenant 6 August 1804, Captain 22 June 1809); yet a portrait of Lt Col Charles Gother, c 1815, shows an evenly-spaced arrangement of the more usual number of buttons, though still with two on the collar¹⁰. It also depicts the Mackenzie tartan shoulder-plaid, another relic of the Highland dress, and the wings appear covered with silver lace stripes placed across the wing, with field officers' epaulettes above. A portrait of Lt Col George Napier, painted in 1814, shows the regimental shoulder-sash, but apparently with the jacket of his old regiment, the 52nd, for the buttons are in pairs, with only one on each side of the collar, and wings with a single row of chain; such a jacket would have been acceptable for temporary service in the 71st, as the facings and button-colour were the same for both regiments.

The silver shoulder-belt plate worn by officers in the early part of the period was apparently rectangular, bearing '71' within a 'C'-scroll open at the top, with a crown above, backed by a trophy of arms, with a 'Union' spray (roses, thistles and shamrocks) at either side of the crown, this design resting upon a tablet inscribed 'Regiment', over horizontal fasces, with a scroll at the base inscribed 'Highland'; this is the plate shown in the portrait of Donald Campbell, for example, and although it has been attributed to a period after 1814, it surely must have

been earlier. It also existed for the rank and file, in brass. A later plate, after conversion to light infantry, was rectangular with rounded corners, in silver, bearing a crown over a bugle over '71', within a 'Union' wreath. The plate has been described as engraved¹¹, but an extant example is die-struck with raised design, and hallmarked for 1809. Buttons for both officers and other ranks bore a crown over '71'; these are shown in the Corher portrait as late as c 1815, although the other ranks' pattern following the conversion to light infantry depicted '71' within the strings of a bugle, with a spray of laurel below. An extant waist-belt clasp, presumably for field officers,



Below: Lieut Col Charles Macleod, 43rd (Monmouthshire) Regt, showing the field officers' epaulettes worn atop the wings. He was killed in circumstances of great gallantry at Badajoz in 1812.

is silver bearing a thistle-wreath surrounding a bugle with '71' between the strings.

A regimental pattern of sabre had a curved blade and single-bar knucklebow, wire-bound fishskin grip, and all fittings steel, including the mounts on the leather scabbard, which resembled that of the 1803 flank company sabre. The oval langets bore silvered badges, on the inside of the hilt a thistle surrounded by a circlet inscribed *Nemo me impune lacessit*, and on the outside a bugle over '71' surrounded by a strap inscribed 'Highland Light Infantry'¹². Another example, bearing regimental insignia on the blade, has a plain steel stirrup hilt like that of



Thomas Graham as colonel of the 90th Perthshire Volunteers, 1802, showing the early use of epaulettes atop the light infantry wing. (Print after Hoppner).

the 1796 light cavalry sabre.

85th Bucks Volunteers

The 85th (Bucks Volunteers) was raised in 1794, recruited largely from the estates of the Marquess of Buckingham, hence the title. It served in the Netherlands campaigns of 1794 and 1799, at Madeira 1800-01 and Jamaica 1803-08; a 2nd Bn existed only from 1800 to 1802. In September 1808 the regiment was converted to light infantry; after Walcheren it joined the 7th Division in the Peninsula in March 1811, but returned home to recruit in the following October. Severe dissention among the officers led to the wholesale removal to other corps of all the regimental officers (save one captain who had not actually joined), as 'a general measure of expediency, and not intended as an imputation against any individual' in the official explanation¹¹, but clearly something must have been seriously awry for such an unusual step to be taken. The officers were replaced by men taken from other corps — hence the regimental nickname 'Elegat Extracts' and the motto *Aucto Splendore Resurgo* — and the regiment's subsequent good service must have been attributable to this to a considerable degree. It returned to the Peninsula in August 1813 and served in the 1st Division until the end of the war, when it was sent to America, serving at New Orleans.

Colonels: March 1794, Field-Marshal Sir George Nugent Bt; December 1805, Lt Gen Sir

Charles Ross Bt; October 1806, Gen Sir Charles Askill Bt; February 1807, Gen Thomas Stanwix.

Uniform: yellow facings, silver lace, other ranks' lace in pairs, with two red worms and two black stripes; Hamilton Smith gives a red crenellation. The 1813 Standing Orders note that officers' wings were of plated scales, edged and lined white, their buttons in pairs (with no loops) and one button on the collar, the turnback badge a bugle within a garter, and that the jacket was to be buttoned across, ie not to show any facing-colour

in the form of turned-back lapels. Officers' legwear was to consist of grey overalls with patent leather at the ankle, three inches deep in front and five behind, with six regimental buttons; and for evening parade and mess, white casimere pantaloons and half-boots. For reviews, inspections and dress parades, all except field officers and the adjutant were to wear black cloth gaiters extending to the kneecap. For full dress a long-tailed coat could be worn, ornamented like the jacket, and epaulettes with straps like those worn upon the wings; it could be worn open to reveal a white waistcoat with regimental buttons set half an inch apart and a standing collar, a cocked hat with green feather, breeches with four buttons at the knees and straps for buckles, and a waist-belt instead of a shoulder-belt. On all occasions the stock or silk handkerchief was to be tied at the rear, with the shirt-frill visible at the front, but the shirt-collar not to appear above the stock or handkerchief¹². The officers' shoulder belt plate was originally oval, bearing '85' within a circle, in silver with gilt rim; but later was silver, oval, bearing an eight-pointed star surrounding '85' within a circular strap inscribed 'Bucks Regiment'. A pattern¹³ shows this design with a gilt plate, silver only on the oval centre backing the number, with a beaded or raised rim. The other ranks' version was similar, in brass, but with an

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oval circlet in the centre, inscribed 'Bucks/Regiment'. A design attributed to about 1815 is similar to the officers' pattern described above, but with a bugle superimposed upon the upper point of the star, and upon the strap the motto *Aucto Splendore Resurgo*, which was adopted from August 1815. However, a recorded plate which apparently bears the hallmark of 1813 is silver, rectangular with rounded corners, with a mounted device of a coronet over a strap bearing the motto, surrounding a bugle, with a scroll below bearing 'LXXXV'. The hallmark may be deceptive, the plate originally being a hallmarked blank before the devices were added, as the ducal coronet must allude to the title 'Duke of York's' awarded to the regiment in August 1815 and borne until 1821. The buttons of both officers and other ranks bore an eight-pointed star, surrounding '85' within a strap inscribed 'Bucks'.

90th Perthshire Volunteers

The 90th was raised in 1794 by Thomas Graham of Balgowan, later Baron Lynedoch, a Scottish gentleman of no military experience but with a hatred of the French, following their desecration of the coffin of his wife ('the beautiful Mrs Graham' of Gainsborough's portrait), en route home after her early death on the Riviera in 1791. Although the regiment only received the appellation 'light infantry' in May 1815 — throughout the period it was simply the 90th Perthshire Volunteers — it was equipped and trained as light infantry at the beginning, so that although numerically the most junior of the seven light infantry regiments, it was senior in terms of practice. In 1798 the 90th went to Minorca (where it was said the sight of their drill may have influenced Moore in the training he later instituted at Shorncliffe), and after service in the Egyptian campaign, the 1st Bttn was sent to the West Indies in 1805, where it remained until a brief sojourn in Canada in 1814-15, before joining the allied occupation of France in 1815 16; a 2nd Bttn, raised in 1804, served at home until disbandment in 1817.

Colonel: General Sir Thomas Graham, later 1st Baron Lynedoch.

Uniform: facings buff, officers' lace gold (no button-loops), other ranks' lace square-ended, in pairs, with blue and buff stripes, Pearce's pattern states blue edge inside.



Lieut Donald Campbell, 71st Highland Regt, showing the regimental fashion of two buttons on the collar and more than usual upon the breast.

Initially officers had short, light infantry jackets with buff lapels worn open to reveal a gold-laced, scarlet waistcoat, apparently pointed cuffs, and wings; Hoppner's portrait of Graham shows a scarlet wing trimmed with gold lace. Short jackets continued in use, but details exist of both a jacket and a long-tailed coat ordered by Graham in 1808. Officers' breeches were buff, but those of the other ranks were originally grey, hence the regimental nickname 'Perthshire Greybreeks'. The initial head-dress was a Tarleton helmet with fur crest, green turban and plume and unusually a large gilt bugle badge on the front, above the brass-edged peak. This was worn in Egypt, but was later replaced by more conventional head-dress; and despite the original light infantry nature of the regiment, an Inspection Report of October 1811 makes reference to light company and battalion men, suggesting a more conventional organisation.

An early officers' shoulder belt plate was oval, gilt, bearing an engraved crowned strap inscribed 'Perthshire Volunteers' surrounding 'GR' over '90' upon a horizontally-lined ground, the same without the number was used by other ranks, in incised brass.

Another pattern, engraved gilt for officers and incised brass for other ranks, which may have preceded the pattern described above, was oval, bearing a star of the shape of that of the Order of the Thistle, with a central circlet surrounding '90' (the number on a horizontally-reeced ground for other ranks), with 'Perthshire' above and 'Volunteers' below. The subsequent pattern of plate was presumably introduced after the official conversion to light infantry in 1815: rectangular with rounded corners, bearing a crown over a bugle over '90' over a spray of rose, thistle and shamrock, in gilt with silver devices. The buttons for officers and other ranks bore '90' within a circular line.

Footnotes

- 1 See 'Infantry Clothing Regulations 1802', W Y Carman, *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, XIX (1940), pp200-35
- 2 *Memoirs of George Elers*, ed Lord Monson & G Leveson Gower, London 1903, p 200
- 3 See *The Distinction of Rank of Regimental Officers 1684 to 1855*, Maj N P Dawnay, SAHR, London 1960, pp 36, 39
- 4 See *Regimental Badges Worn in the British Army One Hundred Years Ago*, E Almack, London 1900, p 39; and 'Officer, 43rd Light Infantry, c1816', P Young, SAHR XXII (1951) p140
- 5 See *Shoulder-Belt Plates and Buttons*, Maj H G Parkyn, Aldershot 1956, p219
- 6 *The Letters of Private Wheeler*, ed B H Liddell Hart, London 1951, p28
- 7 Almack p41
- 8 See *Swords of the British Army: The Regulation Patterns 1788-1914*, B Robson, London 1975, p114
- 9 See 'Breadth of Belts, King's Regulations', B Cane, SAHR LXV (1987) p59
- 10 SAHR XLIX (1971) pp10-13
- 11 eg, Parkyn p285
- 12 See, for example, 'A Sabre of the 71st Highland Light Infantry circa 1809-1819', J B McKay, *Dispatch*, Scottish Military Collectors' Society no 110 (1985)
- 13 Quoted in *The 85th King's Light Infantry*, ed C R B Barrett, London 1913 p72
- 14 See 'Dress of the 85th Light Infantry, 1813' Rev P Sumner, SAHR XXV (1947) pp 69-70

Charge at Huj

Allenby's campaign in Palestine was a remarkable success, demonstrating all the daring and surprise of British cavalry tactics at their best. GERRY ARMSTRONG follows the part played in this triumph by the South Midland Yeomanry.

Formed in 1908 as a result of the Territorial Forces Act, the 1st South Midlands Mounted Brigade consisted of the Yeomanry Regiments of the Counties of Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire plus the Warwick Battery Royal Horse Artillery. The Warwickshire Yeomanry was the elder of the three regiments being the second senior yeomanry regiment, raised in 1794 and serving as cavalry until 1939.

The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars ranks twenty-fourth in order of seniority and was raised at Cheltenham, but disbanded thirty-two years later, to be re-raised in 1834 by the Marquis of Worcester, a member of the Beaufort family, whose portcullis emblem is

still worn by the Regiment. The Queens Own Worcestershire Hussars were raised in 1794 and was disbanded in 1827, raised again in 1831, serving as cavalry until 1920, when the Regiment converted to artillery.

Mobilisation 1914

The three regiments were called to active service on the 11th and 12th of August 1914 at Warwick, and moved as a Brigade to Bury St Edmunds the next day. The yeomen entrained at Norwich, to join the Mounted Division, at the Race Course, Newbury, on August 28th. This was the site of their first equine mishap, when 400 horses stampeded and went careering through the town. Some were so badly injured that they had to be destroyed, while others were later captured thirty and forty miles away.

After a winter spent training on the Berkshire Downs, the Brigade embarked at Avonmouth for Egypt on the 11th of April 1915, in the transports *Saturnia* and *Minneapolis*. In passage they passed the horse-transport *Wayfarer*. It was on this ship that the second near disaster, to befall the Brigade's mounts occurred. About sixty miles North West of the Scilly Isles the *Wayfarer* was torpedoed forward of her engine room. The

men who had taken to the boats, later found that the ship was in no danger of sinking, and she was reboarded by her Captain and a Major of the Warwicks, with some forty men. The ship was towed into the harbour at Queenstown (Cobh), by the steamship *Framfield*, with six of her nine holds flooded. The horses were standing in water up to their knees, but despite their obvious discomfort and peril, only three of the 763 horses were lost.

The Brigade arrived at Alexandria in the last week of April, and went into the camp at Chatby, which was two miles from the docks. The following day news came of the landings at Helles and ANZAC, the beginning of the ill-fated campaign on Gallipoli.

Some of the yeomen had a foretaste of the hell on the Peninsular, when they volunteered to help unload the Australian and New Zealand wounded from boats in the harbour of Alexandria. Many of the ANZACS were suffering from shrapnel wounds, and because of the large number of casualties, they were

British Yeomanry with horses at Chatby Camp near Alexandria in Egypt, 1916.





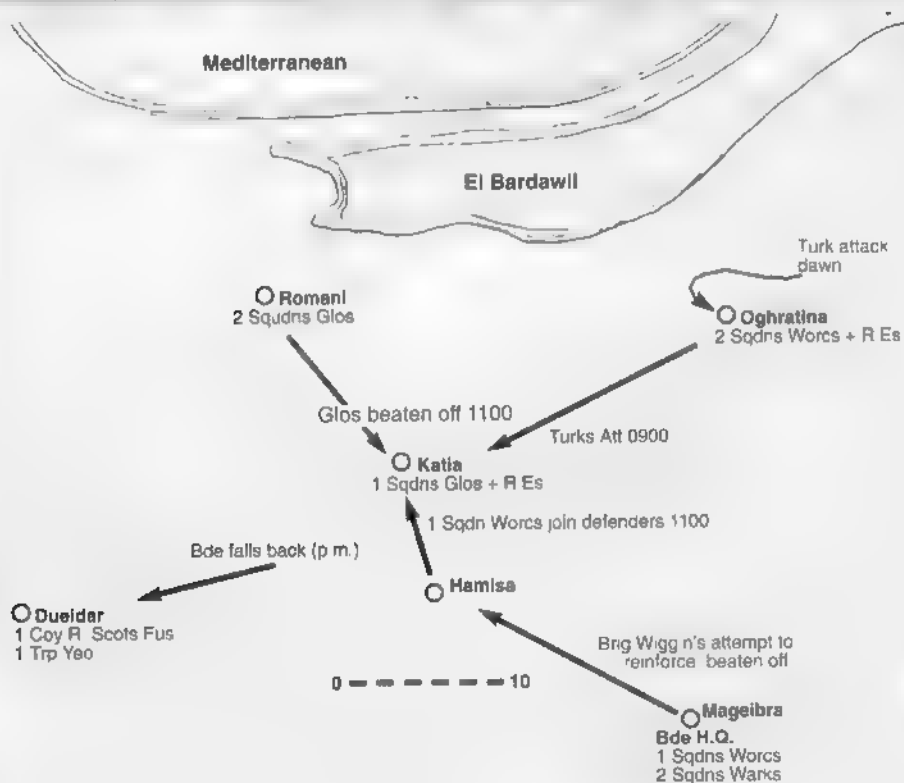
Above: Worcestershire Hussars after Gaza in Palestine, 1917.

laid side by side in rows, on the hot iron decks. Their blood-soaked uniforms adhered to the metal, and had to be cut away before they could be moved.

The Battle of Scimitar Hill

By the end of July 1915, the optimistic plan for a quick end to the war, by breaking through the enemy's back-door at Constantinople, had drawn to a stalemate through a combination of muddle, and bad generalship. To break this deadlock it was hoped that by landing more troops further up the coast at Suvla, a junction could be made with the ANZACS and a continuous defensive line formed. The new landings took place on the 7th August, and a beach-head was quickly established, but because of the unwillingness of Stopford — the commanding General — to move forward to seize the strategic heights, the situation soon became static. So, the stalemate was repeated, and to break it, re-enforcements were thrown in. The formation selected was the 2nd Mounted Division which would serve as infantry.

The 1st South Midland Brigade paraded on the 13th August, and in the afternoon were issued with webbing equipment, and their cavalry equipment was put into store. The next day the three regiments marched out of Chatby Camp to the docks, at Alexandria, in intense heat, and carrying packs for the first



5th Mounted Bde positions 23rd Ap 1916 (a.m.)

Weather conditions — Sea-fog
Three Regiments (less 1 Trp) armed S.M.L.E. & bayonet & 1908 pattern sword
90 rounds .303 ammunitions



Corporal Phillip Camplon in Service dress with the 1899 trooper's cavalry sword, in England prior to embarkation for Egypt in 1915. Corporal Camplon took the photos of his regiment The Warwicks after their charge at Huj used to illustrate this article.

time.

At daybreak on the 18th August, the Division steamed into Suvla Bay, and although they came under fire from the Turkish long-range guns, approximately fifty thousand yeomen got safely ashore and went into reserve, under the cover of Lala Baba Hill.

The Brigade went into action, when the Division was ordered, with the 29th and the 11th Infantry Divisions, to take Scimitar Hill, a key objective. The morning of the attack, the 21st August, began in thick sea-fog, and the advance, planned for the afternoon was intended to take advantage of the setting sun shining in the defender's eyes, but the advantage belonged to the Turks, whose trenches were shrouded in mist, whereas the advancing yeomen stood out in high relief, in the fading sunlight. The enemy positions were subjected to a preliminary bombardment from the off-shore ship, and the field artillery, but this, unfortunately, set fire to the dry heathland, causing 'the hugest and most awful blazing bush fire', wrote the C in C General Hamilton. Many of the wounded, who couldn't move, were burned to death. At 1500 hours, the guns stopped and the Yeomen started to advance over a two-mile front across a dry salt-lake devoid of any cover, the 2nd South Midland Mounted Brigade leading, followed by the 4th London Mounted Brigade, and then the 1st South Midland.

The Turks, observing the wonderful targets offered by the Division, commenced, continued the General, 'a remarkably accurate artillery fire. The advance of these English Yeomen was a sight calculated to send a thrill

of pride through anyone with a drop of English blood running in their veins... here for a mile and a half there was nothing to conceal a moose - they moved like men marching on parade.'

The Division sustained 30% casualties, the 2nd Brigade lost 50%, with nothing to show for it, for although Scimitar Hill was taken by a few of the 2nd Brigade at around 1800 hours, they were driven off by enfilade fire. The failure of Stopford's offensive reverted to trench warfare, and no more attacks on a grand scale were mounted by either side on the Peninsular.

Egypt and Sinai

The Worcester Yeomanry's MO, Major Teichman, wrote that in his opinion, 'If the Division was to continue as infantry it was evident that it would have to be reorganised on an infantry basis. But, the seven thousand horses of the Mounted Division in Egypt, became the deciding factor, for without them, there is no doubt that it would have remained as infantry until the end of the war, as was the case with the six mounted Brigades which had left their horses in England, and which eventually formed the 74th (*Broken Spur*) Infantry Division in Palestine

The fourteen Yeomanry Regiments of the 2nd Mounted Division that were on Gallipoli, returned to their horses at Mena Camp, near the Pyramids and in the January of 1915 its Regiments were dispersed to other fronts, some to the Western Desert to fight the Senussi tribesmen, some to Salonika, and its 1st South Midland Brigade, now to be known as the 5th

Mounted Brigade, went to Kantara, to defend the Canal and to patrol into the Sinai Desert.

The Commander-in-Chief Egypt, Sir Archibald Murray, was charged with the defence of Egypt and the approaches to the Nile Delta with orders to, 'maintain a defence sufficiently active to ensure that no formed bodies of the enemy should come within artillery range of the Canal', also 'to endeavour by all means to interfere with the enemy's advanced bases and lines of communication'. But, as the Turk's (and their German and Austrian allies) advanced bases were in Palestine, a hundred miles away to the east across the Sinai, any serious intention to 'interfere' across this arid region would involve Murray in offensive operations on a considerable scale. Therefore, it was imperative, if Murray were to attain his objectives, that he gain control of the substantial reserves of underground water in the palm hods around Katia, sixty waterless miles from the Sweetwater Canal at Kantara.

The War Office gave the General permission to go ahead, 'occupy Katia if you think it desirable', so he planned to put a 50,000 strong force into the area, and to construct a railway and a pipeline for its supply. On April 6th Brigadier E A Wiggan was ordered to take his '5th Mounted Brigade' to Romani, occupy the oasis at Katia and the hods at Bir el Hamisah to provide protection for the Royal Engineers developing the wells.

The advance of the Yeomanry marked the opening of the Sinai campaign but there were some factors which blunted the effectiveness of the Brigade. It had no supporting artillery because of the deep sandy terrain, the enemy had air superiority, and an excellent intelligence via the local Bedouin. Wiggan decided to split his force to cover all the Engineers drilling at the hods, so that on the 22nd of April three Squadrons and Brigade HQ were moving towards Magebra fourteen miles south east of Romani, two squadrons of Worcesters and Engineers were at Ogratina, a Squadron of the Gloucesters was at Katia, the remaining two Squadrons of the Regiment were left at Romani. What next befell the Brigade was the result of a combination of bad intelligence, bad communications and the superior tactical manoeuvrability of the Turks in the desert.

In the early morning of the 23rd, some three thousand Turks, supported by twelve machine guns and four light guns, crept up on the two Squadrons of Worcesters, under Major Williams-Thomas, at Ogratina. Although patrols reported having seen nothing of the enemy, the camp was attacked from the lightly



Australian Light Horseman examine the Austrian guns at Huj

defended West, suggesting that the Turks had good prior knowledge of its defences. At 07.30 hours, and after two hours of heavy fighting had caused many casualties, and when most of the ammunition had been used, the camp was rushed on all sides and overwhelmed. The Regiment lost fifteen officers and one hundred and eighty seven men were killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

The victorious Turks moved on to attack Katia, many riding yeomanry horses. Meanwhile, the Brigadier with a composite force of Warwick and Worcesters moved forward to attack a falsely reported Turkish force at Magesbra. Finding nothing, and still not aware of the presence of a large formation in the area, they returned to Hamisah (a few miles south of Katia) to hear the sound of gunfire coming from the direction of Ogratina. The Gloucesters at Katia, under Captain Lloyd-Baker with four other officers, and ninety ORs stood-to at dawn and were warned by telephone that Ogratina was under attack. The telephone link was cut and the sound of firing from the East stopped at around 07.30 hours.

Thirty minutes later a returning patrol, reported a large camel-mounted force approaching in the mist. Lloyd-Baker had

ordered his men to saddle-up, but did not feel the need to withdraw, relying on the firepower of ninety men, and the certainty of support from Hamisah or Romani. However, extremely accurate fire from four light guns killed most of his horses in less than ten minutes, and then shell and rifle was concentrated on the defenders. There was also a lone aircraft bombing the firing lines.

Shortly before noon two Squadrons of Gloucesters approached the camp from Romani, and a squadron of Worcesters came up from the direction of Hamisah. The Worcesters, advancing on foot, were able to join the defenders, but the two Squadrons of Gloucesters, under Lt Col Yorke, were beaten off.

Then the Turks, under good cover, crept forward to within fifty yards of the embattled yeomen, who by then were running short of ammunition, and by 15.30 hours it was all over. The garrison was overcome and only nine men managed to escape on the remaining live horses. The Brigade had sustained heavy losses in dead, and wounded, prisoners and horses. The prisoners were paraded by the Turks through the streets of Jerusalem in evidence of their victory. When the Australian Light Horse re-occupied the oases four days later, they found evidence of the severity of the fighting and they buried the dead, giving generous tribute to their valour. The two ill-fated garrisons could be proud of their tenacity

on that Easter Sunday, even if the wisdom of their dispositions might later be called into question.

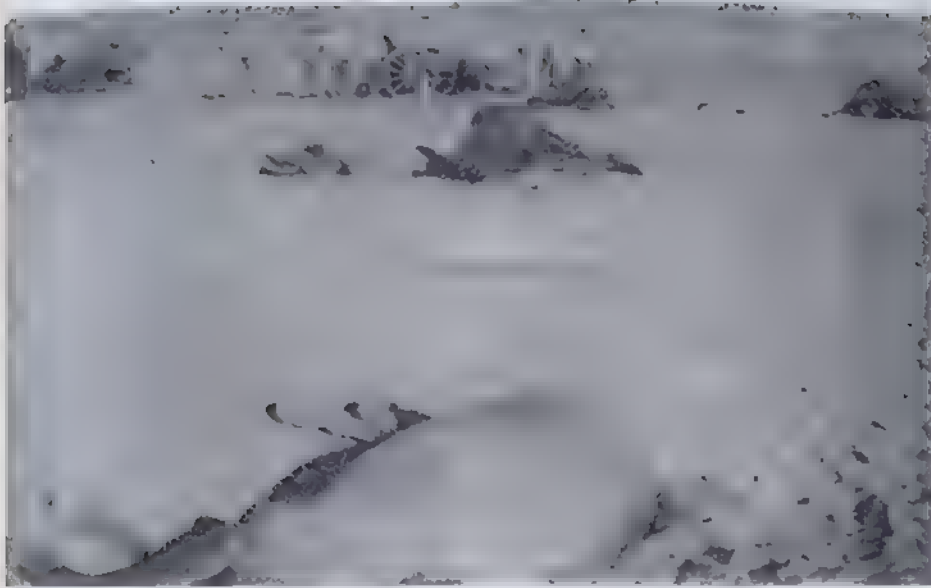
After defeat, a small victory gained by a composite Regiment of Warwicks and Gloucesters at Mount Royston, in support of the Light Horse and the New Zealand Mounted Rifles, for which the Australian Divisional Commander, General Sir Harry Chauvel gave congratulations. The Yeomanry had been instrumental in the recapture of Romani, thereby resolving the threat to the Canal.

As part of the ANZAC Mounted Division, the 5th Mounted Brigade took part in a dismounted attack on the redoubt at Rafa, on the Egyptian Palestine border on the 9th January 1917. The day belonged, though, to the New Zealand Mounted Rifles, who took the fortress with a spirited bayonet charge, just as the sun had begun to set over the battlefield. The action over, and the darkness falling, the horses were led up to the Yeomanry firing line by the 'number 3s' of each section and the Brigade began the march back to Sheikh

Right: Charge of the Warwick and Worcester Yeomanry at Huj by Lady Butler.

Below: The battlefield at Huj.





The dead British chargers on the Huj battlefield.

Zowaid, where the mounts were fed and watered at midnight, after thirty hours without water.

Major Teichman writes that, 'At 1am the three Yeomanry Regiments started on their twenty-two mile ride to El Arish in the rain. As we had been without sleep for three nights, all ranks were drowsy, and were continually falling asleep in their saddles. In our tired state the shadows on the desert caused the most extraordinary hallucinations. Some of us seemed to be riding through forests, our Regimental Commander (Col Williams) said he rode past an endless succession of public houses.' The Brigade reached El Arish in the early morning, and, 'almost to a man, fell asleep, and slept the sleep of the just.'

Gaza and Beersheba

During March 1917, the twin gateways to

Palestine, Gaza and Beersheba, lay between the British and their goal, Jerusalem. Although Gaza had been all but taken when the Light Horse entered the town on the afternoon of the battle, they were ordered to withdraw, and a second and third attempt had to be made later. Of the aborted first assault, the official Australian historian Gullett wrote that 'there was not a single private in the British infantry or a trooper in the mounted brigades who did not believe that the failure (to take Gaza) was due to staff bungling and nothing else... they had been robbed of a victory they had actually gained.' The Turks were reported to be 'laughing for a long time.'

General Murray was succeeded by General Sir Edmund Allenby in June 1917. The 5th Mounted Brigade became part of the Australian Mounted Division with the 3rd and 4th Light Horse Brigades, supported by the

Notts Battery RHA and 'A' and 'B' Batteries Honourable Artillery Company. Allenby 'stamped into every room, poked into every nook and cranny, ascertained what everyone was doing... he went through the hot dusty camps like a strong reviving wind,' wrote Australian Col E G Keogh. The new General planned to take Gaza by rolling up the Turk's front line, from the east, at Beersheba but, the town would have to be taken in one day as its precious wells were needed to water the whole Desert Mounted Corps, which would have to march over thirty miles of rough country to accomplish its task.

Beersheba was indeed taken just before dusk on the 31st of October by the 4th Brigade of the Australian Light Horse with wonderful élan. The Yeomanry were better trained and equipped for the task but the Australians were nearer to the town and as Chauvel said later, 'If I ever did favour the Light Horse, it was at Beersheba.' The Turks, not expecting a sustained cavalry charge from mounted infantry, were completely routed.

With Beersheba gone, Gaza was not far behind. The Turks were in retreat, whilst all the time maintaining strong rearguards of artillery, escorted by infantry. It was these Austrian gunners and Turkish infantrymen, that the 5th Mounted Brigade caught up with, just before the small Arab village of Huj, which was being used by the Turks as an HQ and ammunition dump. The 60th (London) Infantry Division were said to be, 'swinging forward grandly, beating down a strong rearguard in their stride', and the Turkish Infantry were being driven back on their artillery. At 'about 3pm' says Teichman, 'as





the right flank of the 60th Division was approaching Huj, it came under devastating fire at close range, from several concealed batteries. General Shea, who was commanding the Division, and finding Col Gray-Cheape of the Warwick Yeomanry close by, requested him to charge the enemy guns at once'.

Trooper Darcy Jones, of the Worcester Yeomanry, the last living veteran of the charge at Huj, takes up the story. 'Our troop was divisional cavalry' he said. 'Reg Brown and I came across a hut and broke down the door, to find a Turkish officer's multi-coloured underwear, we took what we wanted and galloped back to the Regiment who were mounted with swords drawn. General Shea came across and ordered the Yeomen to "charge those guns". Colonel Williams raced away to ask the Australians for help, but was too late to contact them. Major Wiggins led the Worcesters in the charge, and Jack Parsons was my troop officer.

'We started at a trot until we came to the open valley and then cantered, breaking into a gallop. We were very excited but didn't try to overtake our troop officer, but increased our pace behind him. The guns were firing HE at us and machine gun fire from the right flank, which caused casualties to men and horses. Billy Wiggins, riding the "Pope", was unhorsed by a shell exploding nearby, but was unhurt, as was his horse, which was never found. We rode at the Turkish gunners, and wheeling our horses, made them surrender. The Warwick Yeomanry were on our left, and Toby Albright leading on our right, attacked the machine guns with the loss of many men. I was riding my mare "Blanche". The troopers eyes were

bloodshot with excitement after the charge, but there was little discussion of the action in the days that followed. We were never congratulated by our officers, although we knew that our efforts had enabled the infantry to advance.'

Signalman J Edmonson of the Sherwood Rangers of the 7th Mounted Brigade watched as, 'screaming shells tore gaps in their ranks. Through the battery they charged, the Austrian gunners continuing to serve their guns until the Yeomen were amongst them, then rallying, they continued on their mad career to capture some escaping howitzers'.

Lt Jack Parsons had his charger 'Brownie' shot from under him, but dismounted, he captured some Turks with his empty revolver. He was awarded the MC for his courage. His Squadron commander Major Albright died of the bayonet wound he received in the charge. A hundred and ninety Warwick and Worcester Yeoman charged the guns (the Gloucesters were in reserve) and thirty six of them were killed, fifty seven wounded and a hundred and ten horses killed. Ninety Austrians and Turks were killed with the sword and others were galloped down and taken prisoner. Eleven guns and four machine guns were captured in this last charge of British cavalry on any comparable scale.

On December 11th 1917, Allenby entered Jerusalem. The 5th Mounted Brigade was broken up in May the following year. The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, Hodsons Horse and the 18th Lancers of the Indian Army, joined to form the 13th Cavalry Brigade. The Warwickshire Yeomanry became 'B' Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps and

A yeoman of the Warwicks takes charge of Austrian gunners at Huj.

saw further service in France. The Queens Own Worcestershire Hussars joined the 10th Cavalry Brigade, with the Central India Horse and Gardners Horse, remaining in Palestine until the Armistice.

Credits

For kind permission to use the photographs of the Warwickshire Yeomanry in Palestine, thanks to Col Haycock, OBE and the trustees of the Warwickshire Yeomanry Museum, also for permission to reproduce the *Charge of the Warwick & Worcester Yeomanry at Huj* by Lady Butler.

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The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars. Col Clifford.

Our first great victory

The battle of the Crecy is very much Britain's first great Continental victory, ranked alongside Blenheim and Waterloo. This month, re-enactors from all over Europe gather at the small French village to remember the history-making combat that took place there 650 years ago. PHILIPP J C ELLIOT-WRIGHT describes the events planned for this great commemoration.

After the Battle of Waterloo, Wellington summed up that desperate contest with the words 'they came on in the same old style and we drove them off in the same old style'. In many ways the massed French cavalry assaults and columns breaking against England's invincible infantry reminded many of the massed assaults of the armoured French knights of the Hundred Years War. The first such meeting, to be the model for many more, was Edward III's 9000 brave hearts confronting Philip IV's 72,000 on the field of Crecy. This epoch making confrontation was, needless to say, dominated by the eponymous English bowmen, in many ways the forerunners of their descendants: the thin red line.

The village of Crecy in North Western France is still just that, with a population of only 150. This coming August Bank Holiday will see the battle's 650 year anniversary commemorated. This is in a bid to raise the largely unspoilt battlefield's profile and to help raise the considerable funds, required for a dedicated battlefield museum. As a symbol of the town's commitment, it is intended that the whole ground floor of the Town Hall will ultimately house this. Whilst the bulk of those participating will be French, there are significant groups from both England and the Czech Republic taking key roles. It ought to be mentioned that the Czechs' involvement is due to their historical link in respect of one of the battles most remarkable characters, the blind King John of Bohemia, Duke of Luxemburg. There will not actually be a battle re-enactment as such, primarily due to the difficulties of the different languages; rather there will be a series of events over the Saturday and Sunday, 24th-25th August, commemorating various aspects of not just the battle but the 100 Years War in general.

The weekend's events will commence with an official opening on the Saturday morning. The entire village is turning itself over to this event and a carnival reflecting the events of 650 years ago will dominate its few streets. For this, the 150 Czech re-enactors will be representing various historical roles, ranging from merchants and artisans through to



knights. The French and Czech knights will equally be staging displays of jousting. As most of the French participants might best be described as entertainment groups rather than historic this will be reflected in the tenor of the village's events. Separate from this, although only just outside the village, the strictly historical aspects will be brought to life by the various English groups who will be manning a living history camp. This will be sited on the approximate position of the Black Prince's Van.

The English contingent will be made up of members from seven societies: the White Company, Rosa Mundi, the Knights of St Edmund, the Audley Household, the Cinque Port Archers, Clarence's Household and the Kyng's Ordinance. These English groups will be joined in the camp by one of the few French living history groups, Lys et Lyon (Lilies and the Lion). Mention should be made here of General Sir Martin Farndale KCB, the British army's senior artillery officer who has been patron of the English contingent for the last two years of planning. He has played a key role in helping organise the logistical side of getting so diverse a group across the Channel, including not only the men and women but with the vast array of equipment required to establish the authentic campsite.

The campsite will be open from 10am through to 8pm and rather than just representing the fourteenth century, the entire period of the 100 Years War will be presented. It will be divided into two halves with a twenty feet gap in between, one half for the fourteenth century, the other the fifteenth century. This

will enable the visitor to clearly perceive the changes that occurred over the period. For example, in clothes, the fourteenth century split-leg hose will give way to the fifteenth century joined leg hose with cod-pieces. Alongside kitchens cooking fourteenth and fifteenth century food, the gentle arts of contemporary music and dance will be offered. The military side will be reflected in demonstrations of the long bow and a block of over 100 billmen performing drilling and combat tactics. Also, as the 100 Years War witnessed some of the first major uses of artillery, there will be displays of contemporary firepower, ranging from hand cannons to the Kyngs Ordinances full size fifteenth century Bombarde.

There is to be a general service of commemoration on the Sunday with a wreath being laid on the battlefield to all dead. This is to be followed on the Sunday afternoon by a march from the living history camp to the memorial to John of Bohemia.

As France does not share our August Bank Holiday, one of the costs of ultimately winning the Hundred Years War, the general celebrations conclude on Sunday evening. This is rather unfortunate as the actual anniversary, 26th August, falls on the Monday. This though will not be missed as the English contingent intends to mark this in their own unique and impressive manner. Up to 150 English archers will, on mass, unleash a cloud of three or four volley's of arrows, termed a 'storm', onto the actual battlefield. Each arrow will carry the name of the archer and the village intends to subsequently collect up these arrows to contribute to one of the exhibits in the new battlefield museum.

For anyone interested in attending the commemorations and for further details readers can contact Alex Summers on 01304-381699. Alternatively, if you write to Crecy itself the reply will include details of a 10% discount available on ferry crossings from P&O Ferries to the event.

Association Crecy, La Bataille
32 Rue du General Leclerc, 80150
Crecy en Ponthieu.
France

Secrets of a Master Modeller

Having served in the Armed Forces, Stan Cheffey now has a passion for recreating the roots of warfare in the Middle Ages. ROBIN SMITH discovers the techniques for scratch-building his remarkable models.



Above: Stan's knight hospitaller in 90-100mm scale was completely scratchbuilt using Milliput on a wire armature. The figure was then 'clothed' using Milliput, Duro and A&B putty. Stan's abilities at creating texture in his work are particularly well displayed on this figure. (Neil Ellison)

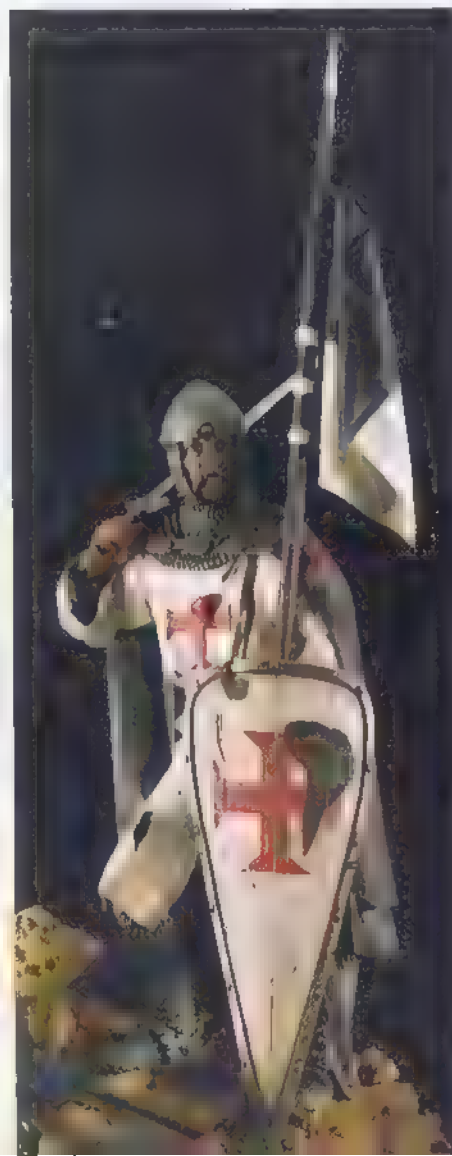
Even though he's served in the armed forces for most of his life, Master Modeller Stan Cheffey specialises in making medieval miniatures rather than models of modern soldiers. His figures are renowned for their rugged realistic qualities and the fine detail he's able to achieve on armour and clothing.

'In many ways the medieval period seems far more interesting than Napoleonic or other periods. There seem to be so many Napoleonic figures available and many of them are the same. I think it's fascinating to go back and look at the roots of warfare. For me it's more of a challenge.'

Stan though, freely admits that one of his early influences was seeing a collection of well painted Historex figures during the great 'Historex boom' when the exquisitely detailed figures were revolutionising the model soldier hobby. 'One of my masters at school showed me his collection and they were some of the best painted figures I've seen. As far as I know he didn't enter them for competitions, he just made them for his own pleasure.'

Stan left school early and joined the Light Infantry as a boy soldier before transferring to the RAF where he's an electronics engineer. 'I suppose that making soldiers helps to unscramble my brain, it's very therapeutic if

Right: On Stan's conversion of this Andrea Miniatures 90mm knight, the alterations included re-positioning the shield, adding sleeves and widening the cloak. A wooden lance with a pennant made of foil was also placed on the groundwork to add atmosphere to the scene. (Neil Ellison).



you've been dealing with a mass of work all day. Even so, there are times when I get very frustrated with my figures. If something doesn't go right then I'll start shouting. All the figures I work on are bigger than 54mm scale, simply because my eyes aren't good enough to see all the details on 54mm figures anymore.'

Stan's work ranges from making minor conversions on his figures to major surgery. He also scratchbuilds many models. 'Sometimes I'll just alter the position of a hand or a leg on a figure. With many figures I like to stick to the integrity of what the sculptor has done, but I think that a slightly different hand position, or an alteration to the way a figure is standing will subtly improve a model and make it look just that little bit more convincing.'

For scratchbuilding figures, Stan likes to use wire armatures which he makes himself or commercially available ready made 'mannequins' which he covers in Milliput before getting down to serious carving and sculpting to make the basic body shape. Stan doesn't use state of the art scalpels or dental tools when he creates a figure, but a selection of household nails which he's bent and banged into shape for all sculpting purposes.

'I did buy a couple of dental tools because they looked good and I thought they'd come in handy, but to be honest I've never used them. I'm much happier with the tools I've created myself. The simple tools often work better and can give you a much better effect.'

The proof can be seen in the realistic clothing effects Stan gets with his figures, mostly done by delicately scratching away with a nail. 'Often a medieval figure will represent

more of a challenge than a more modern figure, because some of the clothing then had many different textures. On some figures you might have to master how fur looks. Animal skins can be very difficult to recreate well.'

Stan paints his figures using oils over a matching base of Humbrol enamels. He likes to shade wet on wet and will often use a lighter coat of Humbrol paint under a transparent coat of oil paint so that the undercoat will show through as a highlight. 'I like to paint in a subtle way, to blend textures together convincingly, yet make the figure stand out. Some medieval uniforms aren't particularly colourful, but you can still acquire the skills of making them stand out.'

Researching medieval figures is inevitably more difficult than getting references for modern figures. Stan admits that there might be artistic licence with some of his figures, but only because sufficient documentary evidence doesn't exist and an educated guess must be made.

Making medieval figures also presents a unique set of problems. To make miniature chain mail Stan painstakingly wraps wire around a small diameter rod which he then flattens out and glues to a figure row by row. To paint armour convincingly Stan uses silver printers' ink which he shades with black and various shades of grey.

Although medieval figures occupy much of Stan's time he also sometimes branches out into other periods like British Colonial and World War One figures, particularly favouring

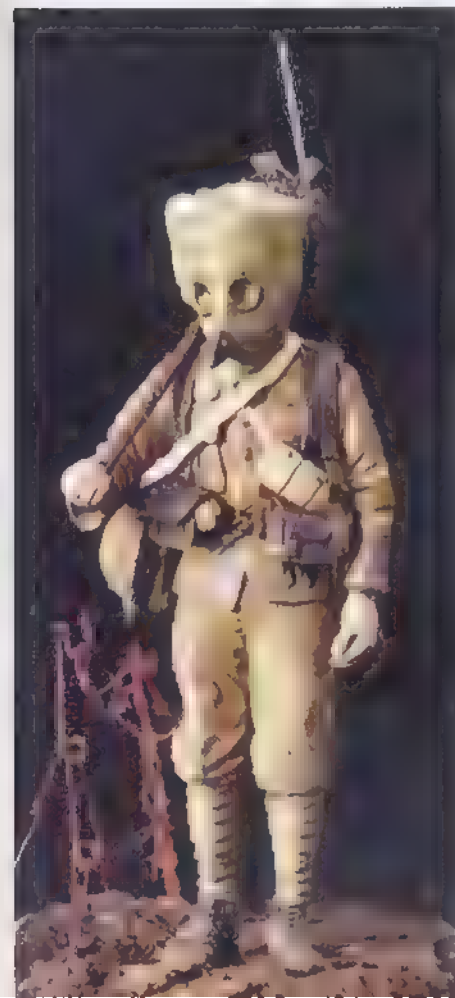
figures produced by *The Fusilier* and the miniatures produced by David Grieve.

'I sometimes go modern, but more up to date uniforms don't have the same fascination as those of the really old periods. Maybe it's because I've worn a uniform myself for so many years that I want to create figures wearing unusual clothing. But David Grieve and Steve Warmlow who runs *The Fusilier* produce some beautiful figures. Steve puts so much detail into his work and his figures have the true feel of World War One soldiers. Both David Grieve and Steve Warmlow are able to capture a real period feeling in their figures.'

Stan is now producing some commercially available figures himself. His first is a stirring figure of William Wallace for *Thistle Miniatures* and he's planning some more figures for this company of Scottish regiments in the Victorian era. He's also very happy about the number of medieval figures currently being produced, particularly by manufacturers in Spain and Italy.

'Periods in the hobby seem to be cyclical. They disappear for a time and they come back in favour again. There are a lot of good medieval figures on the market at the moment and a lot of people are enjoying the increased challenge of painting them.'

'I think there's often a great deal more satisfaction in turning out a really convincing medieval figure. There's an almost endless selection of themes whether you want to create specific personalities or just the average fighting man.'



Left: Stan's World War One soldier is a slightly modified 75mm figure from *The Fusilier* range of miniatures. Note the shading on the khaki and Stan's close attention to the detail on the figure's equipment. (Neil Ellison)

Above: Stan's Thegn of Cawdor is another 90-100mm figure featuring the same scratchbuilding techniques that Stan used on his knight hospitaller model. (Neil Ellison).

FIGHTING IN THE STREETS OF BARCELONA.



COMMUNISTS FIGHTING BEHIND A BARRICADE OF STONES IN BARCELONA. A GIRL WOUNDED WITH A RIFLE PATROL IN THE FIRST OF PROLONGED STRUGGLES WHICH ENDED IN THE ROYALIST VICTORY. STREET IN BARCELONA.

THE WOMEN KEPT CALLING ON THEIR MEN TO JOIN THE REVOLUTION BUT TO NO AVAIL. A GIRL WITH THE ROYAL GUARDIAN.

Land and Freedom

A bitter prelude to the Second World War, the first year of the Spanish Civil War was characterised by many revolutionary militias fighting the Republican cause. Later replaced by regular army units, they have been largely ignored by military historians. CHRISTOPHER HALL uncovers their story and describes their uniforms and equipment.

In July 1936 a group of Right Wing Generals led a military coup against the Spanish Liberal Republican Government. In the first days of the revolt the Republican Government reacted by giving arms to the various working class Parties and trade unions. In the major cities of Spain, Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia the military coup was defeated, but the rebels held a third of Spain, and also Spanish Morocco. The Spanish Republican Government was reluctant to use loyal Army units, and so the main defenders of the Spanish Republic to the end of 1936 were revolutionary militia forces. In Catalonia and Aragon they were still the main Republican force, until June 1937. The arming of the people led to a social revolution as the various political and trade union groups took over the running of factories, transport, farms and villages. The defence of this revolution and the war against the Fascist rebels was seen as one and the same thing. The revolution behind the lines was seen as best defended by revolutionary forces rather than by a conventional army.

The main group on the revolutionary Left

were the Anarchists, who were divided into two organisations: the CNT, a revolutionary trade union which had in excess of a million members, and the FAI, who numbered around fifty thousand. The FAI provided the leadership of the CNT and consisted of the most fanatical Anarchists, like Durruti. The Anarchist are of strength was Catalonia, and Barcelona in particular. A small revolutionary Marxist Party in Catalonia also supported the revolution and were known as the POUM. The Socialists and Communists were against the revolution, but some Left Wing Socialists supported the revolution, and both the Socialists and Communists had militia forces in the early days and weeks of the civil war. The Communists quickly realised a disciplined army was needed in place of the militias, if they hoped to win the war.

In the period July 1936-June 1937 the militias were involved in several campaigns; many ended in disorganised chaos, but not all. In Catalonia and Aragon the mainly Anarchist Militia Columns launched the most successful Republican offensive of the war,

Above: Fighting in the streets of Barcelona, July 1936. Three pictures almost certainly of Anarchist Militia in the first few days of the civil war. (The Illustrated London News Picture Library).

which was only halted at Huesca and Saragossa in August 1936. The Aragon front then became a stalemate until 1938. In Northern Spain in 1937 the revolutionary militias in Santander were defeated inside a month, whereas the Asturian revolutionary militias held out in their mountains, totally isolated for nearly three months. In southern Spain the militias prevented the northern rebels attacking Madrid from that direction in the early months of the war. As it advanced on Madrid, the elite Fascist 'Army of Africa', consisting of the Foreign Legion and Moroccan troops, stormed Badajoz and butchered all militia forces sent against it. At Toledo the revolutionary militias besieged the Alcázar, which was held by a small rebel force, for several months with little success and fled in terror with the approach of the 'Army of Africa', leaving behind their wounded and a large arms factory intact. Yet when the rebels attacked Madrid in November 1936 the militias beat them off.

The two most notorious militia disasters were an ill-fated attack on Majorca in September 1936 which was beaten off by a small Fascist force, and the loss of Múgica in February 1937, caused by inter-Party rivalry, no leadership and lack of discipline.

The revolutionary militias in Spain were an improvised force, a reaction to a Right Wing coup. Their clothes, arms and organisation were a reflection of this. The militias had no military training in a conventional sense, and those who fought in

Right: Militia in Toledo, September 1936, wearing sidecaps (gorillos) and a variety of civilian, army and mono type clothing. The Militiaman who appears to be looking in a window has the initials CNT on his gorillo, which means he is an Anarchist. The armoured vehicle is a Schneider M16 CA1, which was armed with 2 x 8mm Hotchkiss machine guns and a 75mm howitzer. It had a road speed of only 7.5 km/h. The initials JSU on the side of the Schneider stand for the combined Socialist and Communist Youth Organisation.

crushing the military rebellion in Madrid, Valencia and Barcelona received no training at all. Later volunteers had a few days or a few weeks of 'square-bashing', but the firing of weapons only usually occurred at the front or on the way to the front. Some of the militia would have been military service in the Spanish Army and some foreign volunteers had served in their national Army. But generally military training in the militias could merely consist of hanging around doing nothing until it was time to go to the front.

In the early days of the civil war the militias wore civilian clothes, often with an identifying badge or stitched initials of the Party they supported, and a scarf in their Party's colours tied round their neck. Militias often wore a combination of all these items; sometimes they wore merely one or two of the items mentioned. Cap badges included a star or hammer and sickle for Socialists, Communists and Marxists. Stitched initials on caps and clothing were of the political party or trade union supported by the wearer: CNT, FAI, UGT (Socialist trade union), PSUC (Catalan Communists), PCE (Communists), PSOE (Socialists) and POUM. Scarf colours worn round the neck were red for Socialists, Communists and Marxists, and red and black for the Anarchists. Common initials in northern Spain, particularly in Asturias, were UHP, which were found on clothing and caps. The initials UHP stood for 'Unite Proletarian Brothers', a hope that all Parties of the Left would forget their differences and unite against the Fascists.

After the first week or so of the civil war, the militias adopted a sort of uniform, which was a blue dungaree-type overall called the mono. But by no means all of the militias wore the mono, and not all monos were blue. Other militia clothing included the continued wearing of civilian clothes or a combination of civilian clothes and Army battle dress. In the north of Spain a Canadian-style lumberjack jacket was popular, it was woollen and checked. In the POUM, corduroy knee breeches and leather or woollen zipped jackets were issued.

Leather belts, cartridge boxes and pouches for grenades were rarely regularised. Militia were either equipped with Army or Police belts and cartridge boxes, or they improvised their own. Leather belts and cartridge boxes were usually only issued when



the militia were leaving for the front. Few of the militia carried a blanket to use at night when they wished to sleep, and those that did had a variety of coloured ones. Few of the militia carried water bottles, cooking utensils or entrenching tools. The militias were designed to fight a brief summer war, and so in the winter months few had more than one blanket and hardly any possessed a greatcoat.

Footwear too was very varied. Common amongst the Anarchist militia was a canvas shoe called alpargatas, which had a hemp sole. Similar to this type of footwear was a more slipper-like canvas shoe, which looked like a modern espadrille. Boots and shoes of brown and black leather were also worn. Some militia had either knee length boots with straps or laces, or leather puttees or the more usual cloth puttees covering the lower leg.

Headgear was of every type, including none at all. Common amongst all militia units was the sidecap or gorillo. This was usually Army brown khaki or dyed blue and party initials and badges were often attached. Red piping and tassels on the sidecaps were either

left on or removed as the gorillo was often customised by the individual wearer. The Anarchists dyed their gorillos half red and half black. Berets were another popular form of headgear and they were mostly black. Leather caps were also worn. Certain areas and militias tended to adopt a certain type of headgear. The Anarchist Durruti and Iron Columns tended to wear leather caps as did the militias from Asturias, but again, even in these militias, leather caps were by no means worn by all the members of those militia. More outlandish headgear included cowboy-style hats and sombreros and even bowler hats. Metal helmets were issued to the militias in small quantities and came from a variety of sources, Spain itself, France and Czechoslovakia. A militia force leaving for the front had more in common with a rabble in appearance than a military force.

Like their clothing, the militias also improvised with their arms. Soviet arms rarely, if ever, reached militia forces so they used what they could get. Some of the POUM were armed with 1896 Mauser rifles and single shot Winchester rifles. Other militia



units were given Russian rifles of Crimean War vintage! Czech single-loading rifles were also used and the Anarchist Durruti Column used 1886 Swiss rifles during the defence of Madrid. Most rifles used by the militia were old and in poor condition. They could spit when fired and ammunition could jam.

Ammunition was often of poor quality or the wrong calibre. The militias were not trained to maintain their rifles in good working condition and many customised their rifles, by shortening the barrel and removing sights. Militia NCOs and leaders were armed with pistols, and these were the favourite weapons of many Anarchists who were used to using them in previous street gun fights.

Machine guns were old and in short supply and were even more prone to jamming than rifles. Artillery was almost non-existent, and short of shells where it did exist. On the Aragon front the same shell would often fail to explode and be re-conditioned several times and fired backwards and forwards between the lines. Revolutionary weapons like dynamite and Molotov Cocktails were still used at the front as were home-made grenades. These included the 'FAI bomb' where a tape was removed from a lever and the grenade was thrown rapidly or the thrower faced injury. Probably one of the better militia weapons was the megaphone. Propaganda was shouted at enemy trenches and could be political or merely material, like 'we have better food'. Several enemy conscripts deserted to the militias, but not a decisive amount.

To give themselves an armoured force the militias made improvised armoured cars and lorries. These were very crude in design and consisted of cars or lorries with metal plates welded onto them. They were very slow and difficult to manoeuvre and operated only on roads. They had one or more machine guns and several riflemen inside the vehicle. In early armoured vehicles the machine guns were in a fixed position and could only fire one way. Later armoured vehicles became a little more sophisticated and had sloping plates and a rotating turret. These armoured vehicles were useful in street fighting and when used as pillboxes, but as a mobile armoured force they were of little use.

The militias were organised on decimal

lines. In the early Anarchist militia the smallest unit consisted of ten men and was called a Group, the next largest unit was a Century and consisted of a hundred men, the next size up was an Assembly which consisted of five hundred men and finally a Column was any force over a thousand men. Each unit, regardless of size, chose a delegate to represent it; these men were like elected NCOs. Orders from Column leaders were discussed before they were agreed upon, and they could be rejected. Column Leaders tended to be Party militants who were well respected by the rank and file. Column leaders and delegates wore no sign of rank and drew the same pay as other ranks. There was no saluting, and delegates and leaders were addressed as equal to equal. Column leaders were advised by a Regular Army officer, however the advice was often ignored. In the POUM the smallest group was called a Section and consisted of thirty men, then came the Century with a hundred men, then came the Battalion with five hundred men and finally the Column itself. In non-Anarchist Militia Columns, there were elective Commissars who supported the leaders of the Columns. Their job was to maintain the morale of the men, spread the political message of their Party, see to the men's welfare and make sure the Regular Officer assigned as advisor to their Column was trustworthy.

A figure for the total number of men who served in the militia is mainly guesswork, with estimates reaching one hundred thousand for all of Republican Spain. I have mentioned militia men throughout, however women also served in the militia and were referred to as *miliciana*. Dress and equipment tended to mirror that of the men. The *miliciana* tended to wear their hair short at the front because of lice and they looked very much like a militia man. *Miliciana* were either in separate female units which were always led by men, or they were mixed with a male unit, where they tended to do the more traditional female tasks like washing clothes and making food. Some women pretending to be *miliciana* were prostitutes, but in the main the *miliciana* were volunteer fighters like the men. A women's regiment took part in the successful defence of Madrid.

Around five to ten thousand Left Wing foreign volunteers fought in the militias. Some fought in Communist militia units, but left after a short time to join the International Brigade. Foreign volunteers in the POUM and Anarchist militias stayed with them until the militias were disbanded and militarised. Foreign troops in the militias tended to be shock troops who were used to take enemy strong points or to form rearguards. The most famous of the foreign volunteer units was the (mainly German) Thaelmann Centuria who fought in the PSUC militia in Aragon. In one attack at Tardienta they lost half their men. Along with other German anti-Fascist exiles,

the survivors of this unit joined the International Brigade and helped to defend Madrid. The most famous account of the militias in Spain was written by the English writer George Orwell in his book *Homage to Catalonia*. He had joined the POUM as an individual volunteer. While at the front he was joined by around forty British volunteers who belonged to the ILP (Independent Labour Party) Contingent. This force served with the POUM on the Aragon front in the period January to May 1937. Part of the contingent was involved in a storming of an enemy redoubt at night, but generally Orwell paints a picture of a quiet front and boredom. Like the women, foreign volunteers were dressed as the Spanish militia and armed in the same way. They fought in separate Centurias with foreign leaders or were in a mixed Centuria with Spaniards.

The Spanish Communist Party, in league with the Republican and Catalan Governments, were determined to replace the militias with a trained army. During the period of October 1936 to June 1937 the militias were slowly but surely replaced by regular forces. In October 1936 Mixed Brigades were introduced. These included three Battalions of militia with one Battalion of Regular Army and were to be commanded by old Army officers. In December 1936 women were banned from serving in the militias. By June 1937 all militia units had either been disbanded or become part of the Regular Army, which was dominated by Communist Commissars and Officers. Behind the lines the revolution had been reversed and the revolutionary groups disarmed.

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Opposite: Graham Sumner's painting shows a German volunteer of the 'Thaelmann Centuria' in a light khaki mono together with a Spanish 'Miliciana' wearing a typical blue mono. Both wear Spanish army issue ammunition pouches and belts and carry German Mauser Mk98 rifles. The French 'Adrian' pattern helmet was the most common type of helmet used by Republican forces and like the 'gorillo' cap worn by the *Miliciana* has been customised by the addition of a red star. The *Miliciana* has also stitched the initials PSU to her mono, indicating allegiance to the combined Socialist/Communist Party of Catalonia.

King Charles' Footsoldiers

Romantically portrayed as flocking to their King's standard, the truth was that many of his soldiers had been threatened with death to serve the Royal cause. JOHN BARRATT pricks many of the myths surrounding the Royalist Infantry and analyses their true fighting qualities.

'From Gloucester Siege till Arms laid down
In Trewoe fields, I for the Crown,
Under St George Marched Up and Down,
And then Sir
For Ireland came, and had my share
Of Blows, not lands, gained in that war
But God defend me from such fare
Again Sir.'

So in later life, William Mercer, who had fought in the Royalist foot, before enlisting with Parliament for the war in Ireland, remembered his past service'. But both at the time, and since, the infantry who formed the backbone of the Royalist armies have been somewhat neglected in favour of their more glamorous comrades serving with the horse. This article aims to examine the King's foot; particularly those of the main Oxford Army — how they were recruited, their arms and equipment, and the tactics which they employed in battle.

The army which fought at Edgehill on October 23rd 1642, theoretically consisted of volunteers. Though this was the case to some extent among the cavalry, the situation in the seventeen foot regiments which took part in the battle was much less clear-cut. There is no doubt that many men were pressured into enlistment by various means. In some units, the well-established authority of Commissions of Array, led to many of the local Trained Band enlisting under their own officers, drawn from the local gentry, forming the bulk of the troops'. Compulsion, under threat of the consequences if they refused, must generally have played a part, and indeed is clearly highlighted in the case of the Lancashire regiments of Lord Molyneux and the Gerrards. Molyneux's Lieutenant-Colonel, Thomas Tyldesley, summoned his tenants, and forced them to enlist, whilst the leading Royalist in the county, the Earl of Derby, ordered his to report for duty 'on pain of death', and ordered his officers to shoot any stragglers or would-be deserters. That these were not isolated examples is emphasised by the

attitude of Sir Bevill Grenvile, the leading Cornish Royalist whose men are frequently portrayed as following him out of personal devotion. In October 1642, Grenvile was recruiting his regiment of foot, and wrote to his wife, Grace: 'My neighbours did ill that they came not out and are punishable by the law in a high degree; and though I will do the best I can to save some of the honest sort, yet others shall smart,' whilst a Parliamentary newsletter states that 'Sir Bevill Grenvile hath been a tyrant, especially to his tenants, threatening to thrust them out of house and home if they will not assist him and his confederates'.

Yet the part played by overt compulsion should not be exaggerated. In the early days of the war, when it was expected that one decisive battle would decide matters, many were attracted by the prospects of adventure, of seeing the world beyond the confines of their own small village or town, and the promise of regular and generous pay. The proceedings which Richard Gough remembered at the village of Myddle in Shropshire must have been typical. The local Royalist Commissioner of Array, Sir Paul Harris 'a proud imperious person', employed two recruiting agents, Robert Moore and Matthew Bagley; 'the veriest knaves in Pimhill hundred... Sir Paul Harris sent out warrants requiring or commanding all men, both householders with their sons, and servants and sojourners, and others within the hundred of Pimhill that were between the age of sixteen and three score to appear on a certain day upon Myddle Hill. ...And there I saw a multitude of men, and upon the highest bank of the hill I saw this Robert More standing, with a paper in his hand, and three or four soldiers' pikes, stuck upright in the ground by him, and there he made a proclamation, that if any person would serve the King as a soldier in the wars, he should have 14 groats (44p) a week for his pay...' Such an offer, when the average pay of an agricultural labourer was about 3p a day, was highly attractive, and both these mass



recruitments, and 'beating the drum' in individual villages and towns by officers and recruiting sergeants met with a good response.

In these early stages, recruits were drawn from a broad spectrum of life. However, among the twenty men from Myddle whom Gough lists as serving with the Royalist forces (thirteen were not to return) at least seven were unemployed, with criminal records or of no fixed abode. They included 'an idle fellow, who was a tailor and went from place to place to work in this parish, but had no habitation...', and 'Richard Chaloner of Myddle, bastard son of Richard Chaloner... This bastard was partly maintained by the parish, and being a big lad, went to Shrewsbury, and was there listed, and went to Edgehill to fight and was never heard of afterwards in this country.' Others enlisted as a means of escape; an example was Thomas Ash of Myddle, a proper comely person with a good country education'. Heavily in debt, Ash enlisted in the Royalist foot 'to shelter himself from the fangue of duns...' but never rose higher than corporal 'and brought nothing home but a crazy body, and many scars.'

Many of the recruits will have had no previous military experience, and their commanders relied heavily on the small number of professional soldiers generally to be found among their officers, and upon the Trained Band soldiers in their ranks. Particularly valued were such men as the



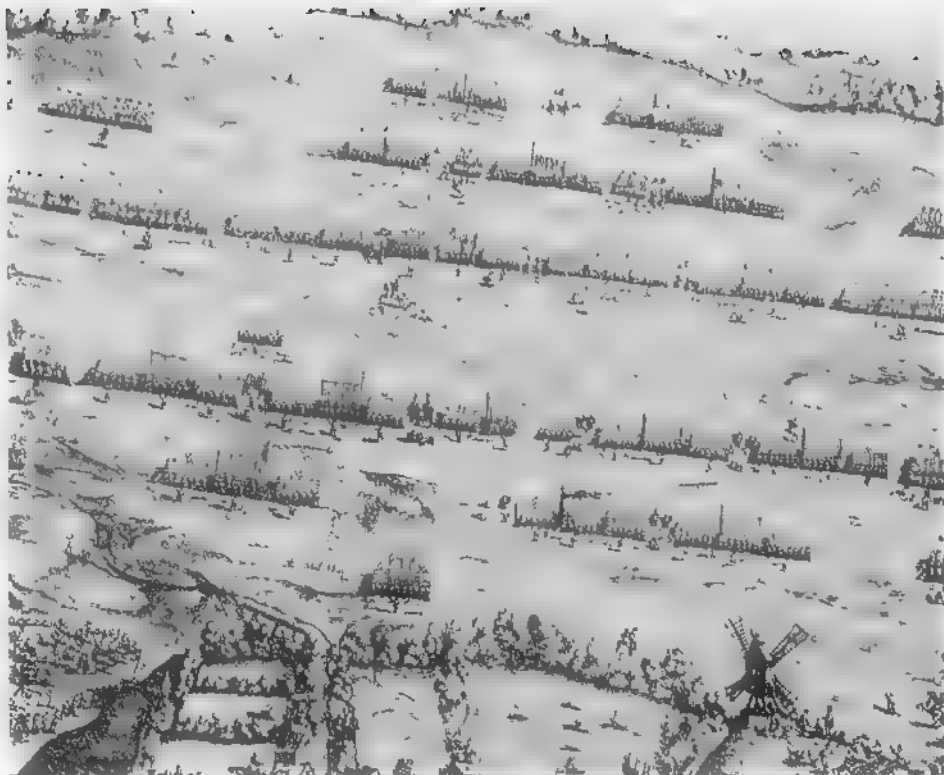
core around whom new recruits could be absorbed in a fairly short time²⁰. The main weakness of the Royalist foot was that they never received the radical reorganisation which the formation of the New Model Army afforded the Parliamentarians in 1645. The disaster at Naseby, when the foot of the Oxford Army were lost virtually in their entirety, was fatal mainly because the King no longer had the core of experienced officers and veterans around whom to build a new army.

The Royalist foot began the war severely lacking in arms. With the principal arsenals of London and Hull in Parliamentarian hands, the King depended initially on such weapons that he could secure from local Trained Bands and a cargo from the continent fortuitously landed at Tynemouth. The Earl of Clarendon described the condition of the King's infantry at the first great battle at Edgehill. 'the foot (all but three or four hundred who marched without any weapon but a cudgel), were armed with muskets, and bags for their powder, and pikes; but in the whole body there was not one pikeman had a corselet, and very few musketeers who had swords.'

The lack of body armour for pikemen was not a serious problem, there is no evidence that it was ever worn by the Oxford Army foot, and Essex's men seem to have dispensed with it early in the war, but the lack of muskets and powder was to remain a headache for the Royalists well into 1643. Although Sir Jacob Astley, Major-General of the Oxford Army foot, aimed to equip his regiments in the approved 2:1 musket/pike ratio, in February 1643 even such a favoured unit as the Lifeguard of Foot had 322 of its 512 men unarmed. It took until April to supply them, and even then with almost twice as many 'long pikes' as muskets.

Shortage of munitions seems effectively to have crippled the Oxford Army during the spring of 1643. The situation was then eased slightly by the arrival of an arms convoy from the North of England, but it was not until the manufacturing capacity of Bristol came under Royalist control in July, and regular importation of arms from the Continent got under way later in the year, that the bulk of the King's foot could be equipped as desired. Even then, shortage of powder, partly caused by difficulties in transporting it to where it was needed, remained a recurrent problem, often with serious effects on the conduct of the war.

By late 1643, the average Royalist musketeer was equipped with a matchlock musket and rest, and a cheap sword. Ammunition was carried either in a calfskin powder bag, or, as supplies became available, the traditional bandolier with twelve or more powder cases. Pikemen had sword and pike, the latter usually varying from 12 to 16 feet in length²⁶. Though many foot regiments of the Oxford Army had probably begun the war



wearing civilian dress, in March 1643 the financier Thomas Bushell had made a contract 'to procure for the King's Souldiers Cassocks, Breccches, Stockings and Cappes at reasonable rates to be delivered at Oxford' and by the summer all the units then in the Royalist capital had been clothed in either red or blue suits and montero caps. These probably remained the regulation dress of the Oxford Army for the remainder of the war, though civilian clothing was also requisitioned on occasion, for example towards the end of the 1644 campaign.

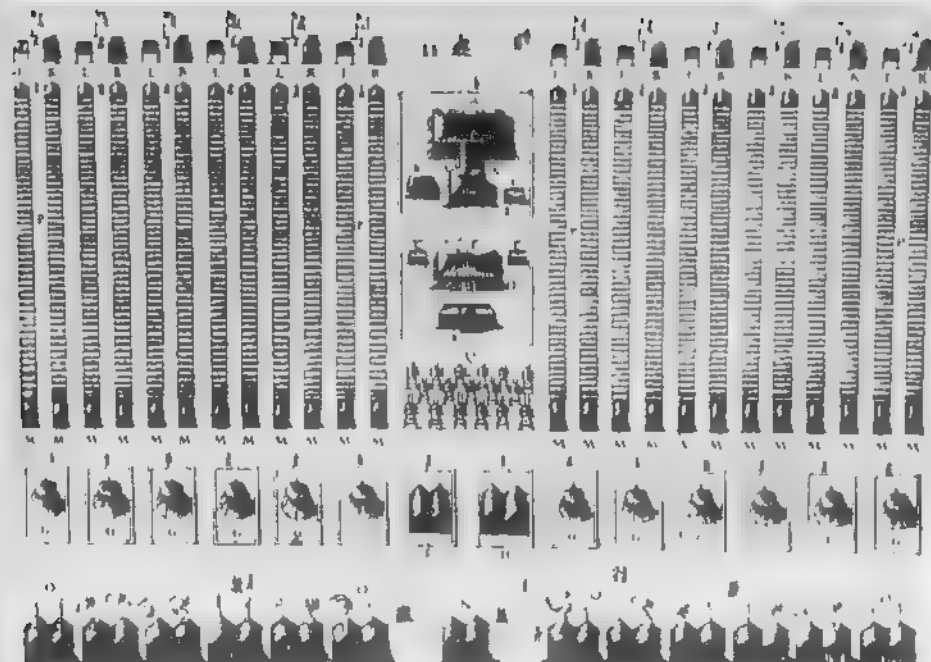
In general terms, the infantry tactics of both sides were very similar. The most widely used options for musketeers were either to fire successively by rank in the Dutch style (using formations six ranks deep), or to follow the Swedish method of doubling ranks and firing by salvee. At Edgehill, both sides seem to have adopted the first method, with disappointing results. It was the practice of the Royalists to take the initiative whenever possible (in four out of its six major actions, the Oxford Army were the attackers), with the aim of a quick victory without prolonged exchanges of fire (possibly influenced by their recurrent powder shortages) and as a result, the Swedish tactics were popular with their commanders. They were described by a participant in the Battle of Breitenfeld (1632). 'First giving fire unto three litle field-pieces that I had before me. I suffered not my musketeers to give their volleys, till I came within pistol-shot of the enemy; at which time I gave the order to the three first ranks to discharge at once; and after them the other three: which done we fell pell-mell into their ranks, knocking them down with the stock of the musket and our swords.'

It is instructive to compare this with some Royalist accounts. At Brentford, in

This detail from Edward Streeter's Plan of the Battle of Naseby shows the recommended deployment of Civil War foot, with massed pikes between flanking musketeers, and light guns in the intervals between regiments. In reality such perfection was not always either desired or achieved.

November 1642, Captain John Gwynne related that the King's foot 'after once firing suddenly... advance up to push of pikes and the butt-end of muskets...', whilst Sir Edward Walker's better-known description of Naseby gives a similar impression: 'Presently our forces advanced up the Hill, the Rebels only discharging Five Pieces at them, but over shot them, and so did their Musquetiers. The Foot on either side hardly saw each other until they were within Carabine Shot, and so only made one Volley; ours falling in with Sword and butt-end of the Musquet did notable Execution, so much as I saw their Colours fall, and their Foot in great disorder.' Recent archaeological surveys have confirmed a picture of both sides firing an initial salvee, followed by a melee, with a more prolonged exchange of fire by files in succession following after the initial Royalist assault.

Although evidence such as Streeter's Plan of Naseby show the presence of pairs of light guns in the intervals between the foot divisions on both sides, there is little direct evidence of their use. At Naseby at least, the Royalist guns seem either to have been totally ineffective or left behind by the speed of the advance. Further evidence for the popularity of the Swedish tactics amongst the Royalists is presented by George Monck, who had served with the forces in Ireland before being captured at Nantwich in January 1644. In his 'Observations upon Military and Political



Layout of the encampment of a Royalist regiment of foot. Perhaps little used on campaign, this sort of arrangement was probably employed in the quarters for the Oxford Army Foot established at Culham Camp near Abingdon in May 1643, and possibly on Borough Hill near Daventry in the Naseby Campaign of 1645.

Affairs', probably written shortly after his capture, Monck advocates a similar formation, with the musketeers deployed in three ranks in front of the pikes, and delivering a salvo before falling on the enemy.

Of course, such carefully executed formations were frequently rendered impractical by factors such as terrain. Many actions were fought in enclosed ground, where hedges and ditches favoured the defender, and attacks were reduced to scrambling chaotic affairs and an ineffective exchange of musket fire with unseen opponents. The Royalist foot were no more successful than their opponents when attacking in such conditions. They made little impression at the First Battle of Newbury (20th September 1643), where indeed Sir John Byron claimed that 'our Foot play'd the Poltroon extremely'. But Byron was a cavalry commander, with little understanding of infantry tactics, and considering that they had made a long march beforehand, spent a wet night in the open, and were short of powder, the casualties suffered by the King's foot suggest that they had fought as well as could have been expected.

The Royalists made considerable use of large bodies of 'commanded' musketeers, both for their greater mobility on rapid marches such as Rupert's Relief of Newark and the King's operations prior to Cropredy Bridge. The highly capable George Lisle was put in command of a battalion of about 1,000 musketeers drawn from several regiments during the Siege of Gloucester, and led them

throughout the Newbury campaign. Another force of similar size, possibly formed out of troops from Ireland, and commanded by Colonel Matthew Appleyard, fought in Hopton's forces at Cheriton (March 1644) and seems to have retained its separate identity during the Lostwithiel Campaign, where it spearheaded Royalist attacks.

Among the officers who came over with the troops from Ireland was Henry (or Henri) Tillier, a veteran soldier and leading military theoretician who had instructed the volunteer companies of the London Artillery Garden prior to the Civil War. Prince Rupert appointed Tillier as his Major-General of Foot, and if he had not been captured at Marston Moor and held prisoner for a year, Tillier might have played an important part in Rupert's largely still-born plans to reform the Royalist armies. Nonetheless, some of his pre-war teachings were absorbed in the Royalist forces. Tillier had recommended tactics to meet attacks by horse: 'Files closing to the midst to their closest order, insomuch that there was not above half a foot intervall of ground between File and File, the pikes porting, and after closing their ranks forward so close, that they locked themselves within one another, and then charged on, which in my judgement is so secure a way from routing, that it is impossible for any body of Horse to enter therein.' This advice is closely echoed by the action of Royalist foot at Cheriton, when they repelled an attack by Haselrigg's horse: 'the Foot keeping there ground in a close body, not firing till within two pikes length, and then three ranks at a time, after turning up the butt end of their muskets, charging their pikes, and standing close, preserv'd themselves and slew many of the enemy..'. The same tactics were no doubt employed in the celebrated 'last stands' of Rupert's Bluecoats and the King's Lifeguard at Naseby.

How good were the Royalist foot? Despite being poorly armed and equipped in

the early months of the war, and generally outnumbered in its later stages, the King's foot had a record which compares favourably with its opponents. Only the New Model, with greater resources in material and manpower, was to do better, and even they, despite superior numbers, had almost gone down before the King's men at Naseby. Sir Thomas Fairfax, who was in an excellent position to know, later said that some of his best troops were the old soldiers of the King.

Notes

1. William Mercer, *The Moderate Cavalier*, 1675 p1.
2. For example, Sir William Pennyman's Regiment from Yorkshire (see Peter Young, *Edgehill 1642*, 1967, p233).
3. Quoted in John Struckley, *Sir Bevil Grenville and his Times*, 1983, p115.
4. Richard Gough, *The History of Myddle*, 1981, ed. p5.
5. *ibid*
6. *ibid*, p51
7. *ibid*, p6
8. Charles Carleton, *Going to the Wars*, 1992, p261.
9. See John Barratt, *The Oxford Army and its Regiments of Foot*, in *English Civil War Notes and Queries*, Nos 27 and 29, and (with caution) Joyce Lee Malcolm, *Caesar's Due*, 1983, pp109-110.
10. G N Godwin, *The Civil War in Hampshire*, 1904, p127.
11. Earl of Clarendon, *History of the Great Rebellion*, 1888 ed, 3 pp 425, 427.
12. See Barratt, op cit
13. Principally by Malcolm, op cit. However her claims are based largely upon uncritical use of pro-Parliamentarian sources, and are grossly inflated
14. Sir Thomas Fairfax to the Earl of Essex, January 26th 1644 (in *Magnalae Dei*) 1644 (TTE 141.13).
15. Cheshire Record Office, *Quarter Sessions Records*, CJT 89/2/206.
16. Figures based on Ian Ryder, *An Army for Ireland*, 1987, p36.
17. Information taken from Richard Symonds, *Notebook*, (Harleian MSS 986), and Stuart Peachey and Alan Turton, *Old Robin's Foot*, 1987, p58.
18. Officially established rates of pay varied widely in different Royalist armies at different periods. The reality was in any case usually wildly different from the theory, but the proportions of the amounts laid down for officers and other ranks remained roughly the same
19. A sample of petitions in the Cheshire Record Office shows over 50 men with two or more years' continuous service, and in many cases for the duration of the war.
20. A raw recruit could achieve a reasonable standard of training in about two months.

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insignia 1941-91, US Troops of Mexican War, 1846-48 (1), German 1908 Tunic researched, Napoleonic Canadian Fencibles Reconstructed (3), Thomas Tykdesley, 1645.

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Polish Winged Hussar, 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry, French 3rd Cuirassier Regiment, Tito's Yugoslavia to Present, British Army Uniforms 1795-1814, Serbian Warriors, Rufus Lathrop Baker.

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Zulu War Dress, 1st US Volunteer Cavalry 1898, Warriors from South Seas War 1881, New British Army Combat Uniforms, 1st Canadian Infantry Division 1943, Brunswick Light Infantry Battalion 1776, Stanley L. Wood, Gothic Knight, Panzerfaust.

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Sharpe at Badajoz, Disaster at D-Day, Ninth and Tenth US Cavalry, 1866-1903, Korean Warfare, 1592, 68th Regiment of Light Infantry, 1814, Pictish Victory, AD 685, Bryan K. Fosten, Lewis Gun.

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MI/89
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Militaria

At a time when the shooting and firearms collecting fraternity appears to be under a serious threat of near extinction there should be no internal divisions. During the last crisis after Hungerford there was sometimes disagreement between those who were only involved with shotguns and the rest of the shooting world which did nobody any good. There now appears to be signs of a similar division developing among collections. A new title, 'badges and barbed wire,' seems to be gaining popularity used in a derogatory sense.

The phrase is used by some collectors of arms and armour to dismiss fairs, collectors or indeed anything with any connection to badges, uniforms, equipment, buttons and similar small military items. Medals apparently escape the disgrace. Those using the phrase seem to imply that collecting arms and armour is far superior to such humble collecting fields. Certainly it is far more expensive.

There seems to be little justification in running down the collecting of militaria. The objects can be of as much interest in their own right as any sword or antique firearm. The fact that they are usually, but by no means always, cheaper is really of no importance. In some fields such as badges this is becoming less usual. It is true that uniforms sometimes seem to attract a fringe of 'gung-ho' cowboys and few if any would defend these but the true collector of militaria is as worthy of respect as any other collector.

Another reason for the disdain may be connected with the interest in Third Reich material which, to many people, is objectionable. This is very understandable, but to those born well after 1945, the Second World War probably seems as distant in time as the Crimea or Agincourt. They see German World War II material just as collectable as that of any other period. Again the

fact that some extremists attach themselves to the insignia of the Nazis is to be deplored but the collector is usually non-political.

De-activated firearms also attract a lot of condemnation. However one may dislike the partial destruction of an interesting firearm there is some benefit for re-enactors and similar groups. These might otherwise never be able to own an example of, for instance, a Lee Enfield rifle.

The price of much of the run-of-the-mill material is generally within the range of a majority of potential collectors and this is surely good for the whole field of arms and armour. The young man who starts off with bayonets or badges may well develop his interest and become the future knowledgeable collector of fine quality flintlock pistols, swords or armour. Yet another point to make the 'superior' collector stop and think for a moment is that if legal restrictions and prices continue to increase they may well become a minority group which would be a great shame.

Toy soldiers and figures might well be dismissed by some as unworthy of consideration but the interest that they generate is very considerable. A glimpse at one of Phillips toy soldier sale catalogues might surprise many people. Estimates of well over a thousand pounds are not unusual for some of the very rare sets. Empty cardboard boxes which once held the sets of Britains figures can, if unusual, reasonably expect to sell at £30-£50.

A similar skim through a Bosley's badge sale catalogue will soon indicate the current competition and demand among collectors. An original Long Range Desert Group silver badge was offered with an estimate of £500-£600. Fairly ordinary badges still warrant a full entry in the catalogue and an estimate of £10-£20. A few years ago such badges would have sold for a few shillings.

Being able to judge what is

likely to be in demand in the future would be a wonderful gift. Who could have anticipated a few years ago that cartridge display boards would sell for thousands! These boards, probably technically the property of the cartridge company, were displayed by gunsmiths to demonstrate the range of ammunition available. The various sample cartridges were set out in a variety of patterns and mounted in glass cases. One in Sotheby's sale of modern and vintage sporting guns and rifles on 1st May held some one hundred and forty Eley and Kynoch cartridges. It was estimated very reasonably at £1000-£1,500. Under the hammer it went for £4,380! Another display board showing how cartridges were manufactured by Nobel Industries Ltd was estimated at £800-£1000. It was sold for £2,990.

There were more surprises to come. Bullet moulds for the Colt percussion revolving rifle which cast a .56 inch diameter bullet were an essential part of the accessories supplied with the rifle. The sale had two on offer and they were estimated at £150-£250

the pair. A reasonable estimate since they are rare and would be very desirable to a Colt collector. In fact they fetched £368.

The early gunmakers made Damascus gun barrels valued for their strength and beauty by twisting and hammering long iron bars around a former. It was a long and hard process. The sale included a sample of such a barrel in an unfinished condition so that the method of construction could clearly be seen. It was estimated at £300-£500 but its final selling price was £920.

Top price of the sale was £45,500 and not surprisingly this was paid for a pair of 12 bore guns by Purdey the world famous makers. Incidentally for the collector of percussion guns and rifles a new book called the *Early Purdeys* by L Patrick Unsworth and published by Christies at £65 is going to be invaluable. Whilst the name Purdey is synonymous with top quality modern sporting guns the firm also produced a large number of percussion weapons. This book lists the numbers of the guns and frequently details of the price, date of sale and purchaser. Frederick Wilkinson

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